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Key Developments

Ryabov Reports on Preliminary Results of Registration

LD2310065495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0638 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova and Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 23 (ITAR-TASS) — Out of 43 election blocs which handed over all documents necessary for the registration, 25 presented them on the last day, that is on October 22, said here chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov, summing up an interview with ITAR-TASS on preliminary results of the first stage of the election race which will end on December 17.

According to the chairman, the first stage, the main aim of which was to collect 200,000 signatures of supporters for one or another bloc, was marked by numerous difficulties caused by tough legislation towards election blocs collecting signatures.

Besides, Ryabov noted, voters became more choosy in giving their preference to various associations. He noted that some election blocs, including the Association of Lawyers, the Union of Moslems, Democratic Russia-Free Trade Unions, Our Future, the Mother Land bloc and the Federal Democratic Movement, could not hand over all the documents by the deadline.

The chairman explained that the law establishes the end of this stage by 24:00 on October 22.

Moreover, Ryabov stressed that some 20 election associations which joined the race some time in the past, gave up their intentions later and even did not turn up at the Central Electoral Commission with required documents for registration.

According to the chairman, the registration period of candidates for the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) is not over yet: it will end in one-seat constituencies by October 27.

The central commission will end the registration of election blocs ten days later after examination of signature lists, that is on November 2. From that time on, contenders for parliamentary seats will start actually their tough race.

Ryabov added that the registration does not guarantee that all the registered associations will reach the election day of December 17.

The chairman claimed that if violations of operating legislation and rules of election campaigns are registered, the commission reserves the right to raise the question of depriving election blocs or associations of their registration.

ITAR-TASS reporters who spent the last night at the central commission noted that the acceptance of signature lists continued literally till the last minutes of October 22.

Central commission staff members, numbering 200 together with public volunteers, ended stamping pages of signature lists of the National Salvation Front at 23:35 on Sunday.

Representatives from the "We Serve Russia" election bloc passed the entrance to the commission's building literally at the same time. But they had time to bring only one of the three boxes with signature lists: they were warned that they would not be able to hand over all the documents before the deadline.

However, more aggressive and insistent representatives from the Democratic Russia bloc which united with the free trade unions, despite a warning of central commission members, brought in their boxes at 23:53. Twenty staffers could stamp only 34,000 signatures before the chimes struck midnight.

The commission turned away representatives from the Association of Russian Lawyers, the Association of Invalids and others who demanded to accept their documents, since they were late with their signature lists.

Ryabov said that they had been repeatedly warned that their associations would be deprived of a chance to continue the race if they were late.

Analysts believe that some 20 election associations which did not even turn up at the central commission, could not possibly collect 200,000 signatures.

According to Ryabov, documents of 16 blocs have been checked, and eight of them were already registered. These are the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Congress of Russian Communities, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Women of Russia, the Agrarian Party of Russia, the Ivan Rybkin Bloc, Trade Unions and Russian Industrualists-Union of Labour and Our Home is Russia.

Blocs Submitting Signatures Listed

LD2310135495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 23 (INTERFAX) — By last Sunday, Russia's Central Electoral Commission [CEC] has accepted lists, signed by no less than 200,000 voters, from 43 electoral associations and blocs.

As the Commission has reported to INTERFAX, this number includes the 8 electoral associations and blocs, whose federal lists had been registered by Sunday.

The lists were received by the last midnight deadline and will be verified within ten days.

By Sunday the Commission registered the federal lists of eight electoral associations and blocs: Russia's Communist Party with Gennadiy Zyuganov topping the list, the Congress of Russian Communities — Yuriy Skokov, Russia's Liberal Democratic Party — Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Russia's Women Movement — Alevtina Fedulova, Russia's Agrarian Party — Mikhail Lapshin, Ivan Rybkin's Bloc, Our Home Russia Movement — Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Russia's Trade Unions and Industrialists Union — Vladimir Shcherbakov.

Subscription lists were also handed in by the Independent Bloc whose federal list does not have the main part but is split into regional groups, Beer Lovers Party — Konstantin Kalachev, Great Power Social Patriotic Movement — Aleksandr Rutskoy, Tikhonov-Tupolev-Tikhonov Bloc — Aleksandr Tikhonov, Forward Russia Movement — Boris Fedorov, Common Cause Movement — Irina Khakamada, Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko Bloc — Ella Pamfilova, Working People's Self-Rule Party — Svyatoslav Fedorov, YaBLoko — Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, People's Union — Vladimir Lukyanov, For Homeland Bloc — Vladimir Polevanov, Landmark Generation Bloc Dmitriy Solonnikov, Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats — Yegor Gaydar, Social Democrats — Gavriil Popov, Russia's National-Republican Party — Nikolay Lysenko, Ecological Cedar Party — Anatoliy Panfilov, My Fatherland association — Boris Gromov, Power to People bloc — Nikolay Ryzhkov, Russian Municipal Workers Union — Leonid Chernyshev, Economic Freedom Party — Konstantin Borovoy, Moslem NUR Movement — Khalit Yakhin, Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc, Stable Russia Movement — Oleg Petrov, 89 bloc, whose federal list does not have the main part but is split into regional groups, Movement of All Nations of Russia — Aleksandr Bazhenov, All-Russia Transport Workers Movement — Leonid Bagrov, Russia's Christian-Democratic Union — Vitaliy Savitskiy, Russia's Union and Accord Party — Sergey Shakhray, Pensioners Union — Dzhuna Davitashvili, Communists-Working Russia-for Soviet Union — Viktor Tyulkin, Duma-96 — Vladimir Burenin, International Union — Abdulakh Mikitayev, Patriots Union — Vladislav Achalov, Fatherland's Transformation — Eduard Rossel, National Salvation Front — Valeriy Smirnov.

CEC Allows Blocs To Run Despite 'Invalid' Signatures

LD2210220595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2201 GMT 22 Oct 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 22 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's 40 parties and blocs of 69 registered by the Central Election Commission [CEC] for the December 17 State Duma election have submitted their lists with signatures of electorates by the deadline, 20:00 Moscow time [1700 GMT].

To be placed on ballots, the blocs are required to present at least 200,000 signatures of their backers 55 days before the election date.

The Duma '96, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord and a transport sector bloc presented their lists hours before the deadline.

Twelve more groups are in the submission process.

Some of these are Democratic Russia-Free Trade Unions and pro-communist Our Future and the Popular Salvation Front.

This makes the number of blocs seeking parliament seats 52.

However, the Central Election Commission will be checking authenticity of signatures during ten days.

Sources told ITAR-TASS that eight blocs had been allowed to run in the election despite numerous signatures on their lists were found invalid.

The Liberal Democratic Party led by Vladimir Zhirinovsky has the lead in the number of false signatures.

The State Duma faction Women of Russia has come up with the lowest number of fake signatures.

Radio, TV Debts Threaten Election Broadcasts

LD2010131095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1226 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Barinova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — "There is currently a big question mark over regular reporting on the election campaign and on the elections themselves on television and radio," Mikhail Yelizarov, the federal deputy minister for communications told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. Power workers may switch off communications enterprises that distribute radio and television programs throughout Russia at any moment because of their debts. The heads of the Russian Communications Ministry have informed the government, the president's administration, and the Central Electoral Commission of the critical situation.

According to the latest information that communications workers have, all television and radio broadcasts have been switched off in Tyva from today. Power is not being transmitted to the Komsomolskiy radio center, which provides Khabarovsk region and the far east with programs from Radio Russia, the Mayak radio station, and others until debts are paid. The transmitters in Tver and Obninsk have not been operating since September. Russia cannot be heard abroad either: Broadcasts to the central and western areas of China and Mongolia have been stopped and programs are only rarely transmitted to Japan, South America, and Europe.

I think that the situation that has developed will change the edict that the Russian president recently signed "on improving radio and television broadcasting in Russia," said Yelizarov. This document permits the territories' finances to be used more widely to develop the regional communications networks. The edict proposes that work be done on the draft federal special purpose program for the development of radio and television broadcasting and the creation of individual networks for the distribution of programs. Experts from the federal service for radio broadcasting and television will take part in developing it, together with communications workers.

CEC To Pay LDPR R80 Million in Campaign Funds

LD2010211995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1939 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — The Central Electoral Commission [CEC] on Friday decided to pay 80 million rubles [R] to the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] to fund its parliamentary election campaign.

A commission member said the law made provision for equal sums to be paid to all organizations allowed to propose candidates for a parliamentary election. Viktor Karpunov told INTERFAX the commission had already transferred 80 million rubles to the Communist Party.

He said money had still not been allocated to the Congress of Russian Communities and Women of Russia since they had not yet submitted relevant documents.

The commission on Friday turned down a list of candidates submitted by the Christian Democratic Union. It said the Union had failed to fulfill one of the requirements laid down by the election law.

Masked Assailants Attack Electoral Bloc's Headquarters

LD2010142495 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This report we received by fax from the headquarters of the Union of Depositors of Russia-National Salvation Front electoral bloc. At 1945 on 19 October, a group of masked people armed with automatic weapons broke into the bloc's headquarters. Members of the Union of Depositors of Russia, members of the All-Russian Union of Depositors in the Tibet Concern, and the headquarters' personnel were arrested. They were all made to lie on the floor and were beaten up. The leadership of the bloc demands that the Moscow mayor, as well as representatives of the Moscow internal affairs department and the main directorate of internal affairs should come to the scene of the incident.

Starting today, the Union of Depositors of Russia-National Salvation Front electoral bloc will employ armed security guards in all its premises.

'Red Belt' Leaves Democrats No Chance To Win Elections

LD2010210295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Oct 20 (INTERFAX-West) — Communists of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus share the same strategy, tactics and approaches regarding political and economic problems, the Communist leaders of the three countries have said.

The chairmen of the three countries' Communist parties, Gennadiy Zyuganov, Pyotr Simonenko and Sergey Kalyakin, held a meeting in Minsk today to discuss the coming parliamentary elections in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Zyuganov told INTERFAX that "a red belt" had been made in Russia of party cells going from Pskov to Blagoveshchensk through Bryansk and Orel. He said the "red belt" did not leave Russian Democrats a single chance to win the elections.

Zyuganov described the Our Home is Russia and the Russia's Democratic Choice electoral blocs as "Russia's misfortune."

Zyuganov said the collapse of the USSR was "a zigzag of history which runs counter to reason."

The three Communist leaders said that if their parties won the elections they would speak against building any borders between the former Soviet republics.

Zyuganov sharply criticized the performance of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. He said he believed that the Russian Foreign Ministry had failed to perform well everywhere. He said Kozyrev "is a foreign minister in Russia rather than the Russian foreign minister."

Zyuganov said that in the area of foreign policy the Communists would primarily seek to prevent the deterioration of relations between Russia and Ukraine and China and to prevent war between the Orthodox Christians and the Moslems.

'Common Cause' Leader Says Criminals To Occupy Duma

MK2110150795 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Khakamada's View"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Irina Khakamada, deputy in the parliament's lower chamber and leader of the "Common Cause" movement, is confident that more than one-third of the deputies' seats in Russia's new State Duma will be occupied by representatives of criminal structures, and over two-thirds of the deputies will be financed by them. According to her, the situation is caused by, in addition to an "uncivilized" election law, deputies' criminal immunity. This "in actual fact prompts criminal elements to head for parliament, striving not only to acquire 'pocket' factions, but also to escape criminal liability," the deputy believes.

Shumeyko: Political Forces 'in Opposition' to President

LD2010201695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — Speaker of the Federation Council (upper house) Vladimir Shumeyko has described as absurd a situation in which 20,000 candidates are vying for 450 seats in the lower house, the State Duma. He thinks this may lead to the formation of a patchwork parliament.

In a speech to the students of the Engineering Academy in St. Petersburg, Shumeyko said political forces from democrats to communists were now all in opposition to the president.

He put at 960,000 the number of people belonging to various political parties saying that even the largest Communist party could boast only 260,000 members.

Shumeyko said the Communist party was now more of a socialist democratic party and would remain so if it wanted to become a leading force one day.

On the country's federal structure, the speaker accused what he called irresponsible politicians of putting forward proposals for regional enlargement either through thoughtlessness or on purpose.

Regional Activities

Birobidzhan Residents Welcome Return of Communists

LD2210184395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1613 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BIROBIDZHAN, Oct 22 (INTERFAX-Eurasia) — About half of the residents of Birobidzhan (the administrative center of the Jewish Autonomous Republic in the Far East), polled by the newspaper BIROBIDZHANSKAYA ZVEZDA, stated they would welcome the return of the Communists.

The respondents were to answer questions about the situation in their republic on the eve of the parliamentary elections, and about parties and candidates they would support. The poll involved engineers and technicians, and also pensioners.

All of the respondents said they were displeased with their life. The worst problem is wage arrears, political instability, the absence of prospects for children and the younger generation and general poverty, they said.

About half of those polled said that a new State Duma would hardly change the situation for the better. Some said that positive changes would occur only if "educated deputies who care for the needs of ordinary people" come to power. They said communists, General Lebed, eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov, trade union leaders and Irina Khakamada might be among them.

However, many of those polled are still undecided.

Election Guidelines

Shakhray Seeks To Amend Law on Duma Elections

MK2110150095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Popov: "He Who Loses Pays"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Shakhray has brought happiness with more legislative initiatives. The law on elections to the State Duma cannot be radically changed, but Mr. Shakhray considers two fundamental amendments to this statutory act not only possible, but even necessary. This concerns, in the first place, a requirement for a second round of voting to be introduced in single-seat constituencies. The deputy premier has also proposed that every electoral association that collects

200,000 signatures furnish a 10-million-ruble deposit, to be subsequently returned only to those overcoming the 5-percent barrier. According to Mr. Shakhray, the State Duma of the second convocation will last no more than 7 or 8 months. The Communists and Agrarians in it could turn out to be too numerous for the incumbent president. If the new president himself turns out to be a representative of the leftist forces, he might not care to have too many democrats in the Duma.

CEC Receives Complaints on Violations of Election Law

LD2210160395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 21 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Central Electoral Commission [CEC] has received from voters a number of complaints about gross violations of the law on elections, Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov said.

Ryabov told INTERFAX and Postfaktum in an interview that voters had reported violations of legislation regarding the collection of signatures supporting candidates to the parliament.

Ryabov said the Central Electoral Commission submitted all such complaints to law enforcement agencies for investigation.

Ryabov said that for example a Moscow female resident had received an invitation from the Federation of Russia's Independent Trade Unions. She was invited to come to the indicated place with her passport and receive 10,000 rubles in exchange for her signature.

A resident of the Yubileynyy town (Moscow region) said those collecting signatures supporting Gennadiy Zyuganov (the Communist Party of Russia) and Aleksandr Barkashov (the Russian National Unity) had announced that they had "lists of unreliable persons."

Ryabov said a Kemerovo resident had reported that the Party of Self-Determination of Workers led by Svyatoslav Fedorov had launched an "early and illegal" propaganda campaign. The voter said the Party's symbols and mottoes had been printed on monthly transport passes. The voter said travel passes bearing these symbols were sold at 30,000 rubles against their official price of 50,000 rubles. Ryabov said the Party of Self-Determination of Workers denied its participation in this action. He said the incident was currently being investigated.

Ryabov said a number of electoral blocs had included several people in the federal lists of their candidates to the parliament without their consent. He said such incidents were not uncommon.

Ryabov said that such electoral blocs would be denied certification if they failed to show applications written by every potential candidate giving his or her consent to run to the parliament from this or that bloc.

Forecasts & Commentary

Zyuganov Interviewed on CPRF's Election Campaign

MK2110064095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 6

[Interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, by Olga Bychkova; place and date not given: "We Will Propose a Constitution of Soviet Democracy" — first paragraph is MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the "Communist Party of the Russian Federation" [CPRF] electoral bloc, answers questions by your MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent.

[Bychkova] Other Communist parties have become so numerous. Don't you fear competition from them?

[Zyuganov] There are no others. There are certain groups with different interests.

[Bychkova] But you cooperate with them, don't you?

[Zyuganov] We cooperate with everyone. There is an alliance of Communist parties, which has made a decision that everyone support the CPRF.

[Bychkova] You had your first meeting with prospective voters recently. It was attended mostly by senior citizens....

[Zyuganov] Here comes this question again. I do not even want to make any comments — the question is dishonest in its essence. Elderly people made up some 20 percent of the audience at this meeting, all the rest being those working in production sectors. And also, young people accounted for another 20 percent. If we look at a crowd in the street, the composition will be nearly the same. However, an image is being imposed that our party is allegedly age-oriented. Nothing of the kind. I have just been touring several dozen institutions of higher learning to meet with a mass audience everywhere — faculty and students. People are most willing to join the party; solid organizations are being formed. From the election perspective, if women and veterans give their votes, we will win an absolute majority.

[Bychkova] Why is it that, in your campaign materials, you speak mainly of what you have voted for and not of what you have achieved already by working in the parliament?

[Zyuganov] Again, you are phrasing your question as a false premise. I find it most displeasing to answer you, but I will account for it. We pledged to release political prisoners — and we did so. We promised a number of socially-oriented laws — and this has been fulfilled. It's another matter that the government does not pay even pensions. We said unequivocally: This power is not going to stick to the laws. It kept only one of the promises: Cheap vodka is on sale at every turn 24 hours a day. However, this is what Zhirinovskiy had vowed....

[Bychkova] Are you confident that in case of gaining an electoral victory the Communist Party will be able to change the situation in the country for the better? Under the present constitution, the Duma's capabilities are very limited....

[Zyuganov] We will propose our own constitution — a constitution of Soviet democracy [narodovlastiye]. The popular and patriotic forces, on the whole, stand a chance of gaining a majority in the parliament now. On the basis of this majority, they can form a government of people's trust. At least, we have set up a coalition involving Communists, nonparty people, and intellectuals. Among the names on the Communist Party slate, you will find topnotch professionals in every production sector.

We need to ensure a normal, fair election and prevent provocation. Then the newly elected deputies will have a moral and political basis to form a team, to put forward their programs and their own way out of this situation. We will keep our activity strictly within the limits of the law.

Public Opinion Center Assesses Voting Intentions

MM2310113195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Leonid Sedov of the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions: "Elections-95: The Higher the Turnout, the Greater the Chances of the Supporters of Reform"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fall has brought Russian citizens an unusual crop of new political parties, blocs, and electoral associations presenting themselves if not as the saviors of the Fatherland, then at any rate as an alternative to the totally bankrupt authorities. In a few days we will find out how many of the 250 organizations have managed to collect the requisite number of signatures to overcome the first hurdle. Right now one can say for sure that the overwhelming majority of the new parties that have entered the political horse trading are making vain efforts and have negligible chances of getting through the second 5-percent barrier, with the exception of three. But more about them later.

Let us point out that the diversity of the electoral landscape that has opened up before our compatriots' eyes and the hullabaloo over party building does nothing to help boost the prestige of the parties and election mechanisms. Polls show that only 24 percent of respondents trust political parties and movements and that 42 percent do not trust them at all. Only 18 percent of voters think that the new Duma will be better than the current one and consequently have fairly strong reasons for taking part in the elections. Thus people's interest in the elections is at the critical 25-percent level envisaged by law and can hardly be fueled by the appearance on the scene of clownish associations like the "Fishermen's Party."

This ballyhoo is matched by all manner of forecasts and predictions regarding the outcome of the elections. Ranging from panic predictions of an all-out victory for Communism to incomprehensibly reassuring forecasts — "everything will be stable." Regrettably, the bulk of these forecasts, even when they are based on sociological data, boil down to the publication of "raw' poll results that have not been carefully analyzed. However, people's verbal behavior (answers) by no means always corresponds to their actual behavior (whether they will indeed turn out and tick the same party on the ballot paper as they did in the interviewer's questionnaire).

Around 60 percent of respondents generally state their desire to back a particular party on the proffered list, less than one-fourth of the population have any real interest in the elections or firm preferences, and the real turnout will be midway between these extremes. The "raw" figure indicating the percentage of votes collected by a particular party in a poll as a whole should accordingly be multiplied by a certain coefficient depending on the presumed turnout. For instance, if "Power to the People!" collected 1.4 percent of the total number of voters in the latest poll in September conducted by the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions, that means that with a 50-percent turnout it will receive 2.8 percent of the vote. If we confine ourselves merely to analyzing the group of respondents who have the definite, unswerving intention of taking part in the elections, the number of votes given to Ryzhkov's party rises to 3.5 percent.

Boris Grushin, head of the "Vox Populi" sociological agency, made the staggering prediction during "Details" [TV program] that only four parties will get through the 5-percent barrier: the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF], Yabloko, "Russia Is Our

Home" [NDR], and "Women of Russia." This forecast sharply contradicts the data of the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions, which forces me to at least superficially familiarize the readers with the "underlying" details of analysis work and the results obtained on the basis thereof.

The table below cites the presumed results today (and there is reason to believe that they will hold good in the future) of the voting on party lists based on the number of seats obtained.

Forecast Allocation of Party List Seats in the Duma (in Percentages)

	Definite Electorate (25 percent)	Likely Real Turnout (42 percent)	Maximum Turnout (58 percent)
CPRF	33	30	22
NDR	16	15	14
Yabloko	13	12	12
KRO	10	11	12
Free Labor Party	12	11	10
LDPR	10	9	9
DVR	5	6	6
Women of Russia	0	6	9
APR	0	0	6

The table enables one to glimpse a great deal of curious facts. Primarily, of course, the fact that the Duma will not be confined to four parties. Furthermore, as the electoral turnout increases, the seven parties getting through the 5-percent barrier (among whom the DVR [Russia's Democratic Choice] is admittedly in the danger zone) will have to squash up and let in "Women of Russia" and the APR [Agrarian Party of Russia]. The latter is due to the fact that the person inclined to vote for them is the "floating" voter with vague opposition views who is reluctant to back the "party of government," the Communists, the democrats, or the hateful Zhirinovskiy, the voter who trusts no one and therefore prefers to give his vote on the principle of corporate solidarity (women vote for women and country people for the agrarians). It is also noticeable that an increased turnout has a positive effect on the results attained by the KRO [Congress of Russian Communities], which once again acts as a kind of "grab bag" for various opposition elements disillusioned with all the politicians who have already shown their worth and relying on the fact that "Lebed will come along and sort things out." Typically, KRO voters are to a considerable extent made up of the more moderate section of Rutskoy's former supporters.

The CPRF suffers the greatest losses as a result of increased voter involvement (admittedly, this is partially compensated by gains for its "junior partner," the APR). The initially high degree of mobilization of Communist voters, who gain little from further activity, is to blame for that.

Mobilized DVR voters are in extreme opposition to the incumbent government and the NDR. Their ranks are mainly swelled by passive supporters of Yeltsin, of whom there are twice as many in the DVR's enlarged electorate as in that of the NDR (26 percent of all the president's supporters as opposed to 12 percent in the NDR). The result is that the DVR moves from the opposition camp to the pro-government camp and Yabloko voters take their place on the radical edge of the democratic spectrum. At the same time DVR voters remain the most "anti-Communist." A typical representative of the DVR's enlarged electorate sees Yeltsin as the last hope of preventing the Communists coming to power.

Let me say a few words about the likely influence on Duma membership of the voting in first-past-the-post districts. I must admit that public opinion pollsters are unable to even roughly calculate the outcome of the single-seat elections with the means at their disposal. The district election "black box" may produce the most unexpected results. About 100 seats, i.e., virtually one-fourth of the Duma, are not subject to any preliminary hypotheses. Another 125 seats by all accounts will be allocated in the same way as those on party lists, but with some bias toward the Communists and the Agrarians and at the expense of Yabloko and Russia's Democratic Choice.

If these computations are indeed a forecast rather than a source of embarrassment, as time will soon tell, they should provide both political scientists and practising politicians with serious food for thought regarding their immediate political future. Nothing there promises them a serene existence. We are most likely entering into a fresh wave of political confrontation, the culmination and resolution of which will come early next spring.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 Oct

LD2110085795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0557 GMT 21 Oct 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 21 (ITAR-TASS) — The IZVESTIYA newspaper describes difficulties of Boris Yeltsin's visits to Paris and the United States. The daily describes purely "Yeltsin's specific features" of conducting talks, which may pop up in an original way at the coming meetings.

Turning to the Bosnian topic, the newspaper warns against a headlong desire to say "No" at the Security Council to a decision to dispatch NATO troops in order to disengage the warring sides. Gas for Sarajevo was a good decision, but arms supplies (which Russia promised to deliver) would have been a bad move, the newspaper stresses.

IZVESTIYA continues to deal with the theme of the Russian foreign policy in the article "Who will be after Kozyrev?" The daily calls attention to the fact that the minister, virtually barred from his work, did not resign but flew to France and the United States with Yeltsin.

This move created a situation when Minister Kozyrev formally exists, but he is virtually non-existent for diplomats of other countries. The newspaper examines figures of possible candidates for the post of foreign minister, briefly characterising each candidate and weighing their chances.

Commenting on Kozyrev's resignation, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper notes that this move means a new and more independent foreign policy for Russia. The newspaper's analysts believe that Yeltsin started a logical government reshuffling, positive for the country.

The trade union newspaper TRUD continues to inform its readers of platforms put forth by participants in the election race. Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov replies to the daily's questions today.

According to Zyuganov's forecasts, his Communist Party, Agrarians, the Our Home is Russia bloc, the Congress of Russian Communities, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and Yavlinskiy's party will carry the elections. Zyuganov favoured an alliance with Lapshin, Skokov, Ryzhkov and Yavlinskiy.

The Russian president's assistant Georgiy Satarov said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that four or six blocs will be represented at the Duma (Russian parliament lower house). In his opinion, they will include the Communists, the Our Home is Russia bloc and Yavlinskiy's party.

Speaking in an interview with the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper, Lechiy Magomedov, deputy chairman of the pro-Moscow Chechen National Accord Committee, said that "the Chechen people cannot be represented by several sides at the talks. Personal ambitions and offences should be cast away, and the warring sides should stretch hands of peace and accord to each other".

He quotes appraisals of the present situation in Chechnya and dwells at length on possibilities of a peaceful settlement of the crisis. "Chechens and Russians have the same destiny," Magomedov says in conclusion.

Starting from October 1, the Russian government slashed excise rates on imported cars from 35-70 percent to 10-25 percent of their customs value. Examining consequences of this decision for Russian auto makers, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA expects an expansion in the network of service centres and rising car sales on credit.

A pension reform started by the Russian government presupposes a real increase in pensions by 100-150 percent, Yuriy Voronin, director of the pensions department at the Russian Ministry for Social Protection, said in an interview with the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper.

The daily devotes seven pages of its today's issue to pension maitenance of Russian people. Voronin stressed that a change in the pension system, far from violating pensioners' rights gained earlier, will bring them new benefits.

Pending inevitable establishment of private ownership of land, "land wars" flare up in Russian villages, reports ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. People grab lands everywhere. Heads of collective and state farms drive farmers from their lands.

The rural mafia has developed. The newspaper describes a rising wave of crime in the Russian countryside.

A total of 500 liquor distilleries in Russia brought less than two percent of revenues to the treasury, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reports. Sales of goods from 109 liquor distilleries in the country were responsible for 30 percent of the state budget quite recently.

The mammoth industry is disintegrating, while a small group of sharpsters are waxing rich from fabulous profits, the newspaper writes in conclusion.

IZVESTIYA carries an article by film director Andrey Smirnov about the life of great Russian author Ivan Bunin, Nobel Prize winner, on the occasion of his 125th birthday. The PRAVDA newspaper also prints a review on Bunin's creative activities.

Yeltsin Addresses UN; Proposes 1999 Peace Conference

LD2210183795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1552 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the UN General Assembly 50th jubilee session in New York — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mr. Chairman, esteemed Mr. Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen: Half a century ago an event took place that marked the beginning of a new period in the history of mankind. The world that was divided and bleeding understood that its future lies only in mutual understanding and interaction. Only nations that are united could implement the century-old dream of a world without wars or violence, a world in which contentious issues are solved by talks, a world worthy of man and humankind. But having won the world war we have so far failed to secure peace. For decades the Cold War was hampering the world community's creative potential. It [the Cold War] did not do good to anyone, it did not make any people happy. The end of the Cold War became our common victory. Democratic Russia has made an undeniable contribution to it. The nuclear missiles are no longer aimed at each other. But such threats as terrorism, aggressive nationalism, crime, and drug addiction are now aimed at all and each of us. Simultaneously with integration, cracks of alienation and mistrust between states and peoples are appearing. The dangerous tendency to belittle the role of the United Nations act in circumvention of its charter, and the Security Council's collective will has taken shape. Today as never before the world needs not only equality and tolerance but also respect for the individual nature of each state and the understanding of the specific features of its history. Each of them can and want to make its own contribution to the development of human community and find a worthy place in it. We must not permit a spirit of hostility and prejudice against countries and peoples to emerge once again. Is the UN capable of coping with these tasks? Russia believes that it is capable. The UN can and must become the main tool of building new international relations. It has the necessary powers for that. It should be given means for this, including financial ones. Russia is fulfilling and will fulfill its obligations toward the UN.

Of course, the UN has not always been successful. But the reasons for the failures are, first of all, in ourselves, in the way states and organizations behave.

Russia is alarmed over situations similar to the recent one in Bosnia when the Security Council was sidelined. It's an obvious blatant violation of the foundations of the world organization laid down by its creators. It's impermissible for a regional organization to take a decision on a massive use of force bypassing the Security Council. Russia has done quite a bit in order to bring closer peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are ready to support operations to implement the peace agreement by multinational forces, including Russian forces, but only with a clear mandate from the UN Security Council.

It is not admissible for military force to intervene where diplomacy has not yet done its job. The consequences of this would be tragic.

There has been much talk in recent times of the difficult renewal of the UN, and lively debate on expanding the Security Council. We favor such reorganization, but, it goes without saying, on condition that the Security Council's responsibility is enhanced and the interests of various regions of the world are taken into account.

Russia's principal interest is stability in Europe and Asia. We advocate a security system based on compromise, not on pressure. European security is indivisible; there is no alternative to it. It is precisely for this reason that Russia supports the idea of the creation at the earliest opportunity of a new system of pan-European security, in which all European states would be represented. It is precisely for this reason that we are opposed to the eastward expansion of NATO. That would raise a barrier to the creation of a unified Europe.

The question is an extremely acute one: To have either a system that is for the whole of Europe or, as was the case previously, one that is only for some. The strengthening of one bloc today will mean the beginning of new confrontation tomorrow. That is not the way to build a just world order. Such an order has to be based on different principles. Russia is for a world order in which priority is given to international law and international cooperation. Russia is for a world order in which a comprehensive system of security operates. Russia is for a world order in which a steady movement toward peace is guaranteed, free of weapons of mass destruction, and where there is reduction of conventional weapons. We are for a world order in which the role of the United Nations will grow, as an instrument for achieving peace, resolving conflict, and providing aid for development.

Russia proposes the holding in 1999 of a third peace conference. The first was held in 1899 in our country. [sentence as heard] Only a third such conference can be devoted to devising the bases for settling conflicts that have arisen following the Cold War.

There are some chronic issues that also need resolving, in particular those such as nuclear disarmament, the total halting of nuclear weapons tests, and control of conventional weapons.

Today, just as 50 years ago, we again need to unite in order to put behind us the legacy of the Cold War and respond in a worthy way to the challenges of our time.

The United Nations is the common will of the world's states. Let us therefore act in accordance with its rules and principles, and in that way peace, justice, and international legality will be strengthened on earth. Russia believes in the United Nations Organization, one which was born in the middle of the 20th century and now has its sights set on the 21st century.

Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Allowed To Exceed Allotted Speech Time

LD2210204195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1726 GMT 22 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 22 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin exceeded the statutory time allowed by half as much again when he addressed the special 50th anniversary meeting of the UN General Assembly today. Instead of the five minutes allotted for speeches by heads of state, he spoke for eight minutes.

Nevertheless, the Russian head of state's speech was listened to with great attention and not interrupted, even though on the eve of the forum the chairman of the General Assembly had given a strict warning that he will be implacable in cutting off everyone who infringed the regulation and would even go as far as switching off microphones.

It is being said in the corridors at the United Nations that the fact that the Russian president was allowed to speak for longer than the stipulated time reflects the international community's great interest in his speech, and also the respect felt for Russia as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

'Muscular' Speech for 'Domestic Consumption'

MM2310152195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by special correspondent Valeriy Vyzhutovich in New York: "Boris Yeltsin Tries To Restore to Russia the Demeanor of a State Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — The resolute and at times tough tone of Boris Yeltsin's speech at the UN General Assembly jubilee session and a number of his statements in his conversation with Butrus-Ghali have reinforced the feeling: The president clearly intends to run for a second term.

The readiness he indicated on Russia's part to participate on equal terms in peacekeeping operations on the territory of former Yugoslavia, the objections to NATO expansion, the calls to enhance the role of the UN Security Council, which has been "pushed onto the sidelines" by NATO's intervention in the Bosnian crisis — all this is designed not least for domestic consumption. For the voter with wounded patriotic feelings, who will catch in the president's declarations across the ocean a feeble echo of the speeches and statements redolent of great-power status that once used to be made by our leaders from the UN platform.

The jubilee congratulatory tone did not prevent Boris Yeltsin from making his speech vigorous and muscular, even prompting applause, which is not at all customary within these walls. The essence of this speech, which contained veiled polemics with the U.S. President and NATO leadership, is expressed in this sentence: "Military force cannot be allowed to step in where diplomacy cannot cope." We are prepared, the president stated, to support an operation to implement the peace agreement in Bosnia with the participation of multinational forces, including Russian forces. But only under the UN Security Council mandate.

Yeltsin submitted a more detailed peacemaking plan to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali during his New York meeting with him. The Russian president believes that each of the countries helping the Serbs and Croats to lay down their arms should control that part of the territory that is assigned to it and pay for its own peacekeeping contingent itself. This means of resolving the Bosnian crisis suits the UN secretary general in many ways, especially as regards finance: Each day's progress toward peace today costs the UN coffers $5 million. That is why the volume of UN peacekeeping activity is, alas, being reduced. The idea proposed by Russia of "clubbing together" to achieve peace opens up new opportunities here, in the secretary general's opinion.

While talking with Butrus-Ghali, Boris Yeltsin assessed in emphatically sharp terms the actions of the UN Secretariat, which went behind the Security Council's back to conclude a contract with NATO for separating the warring parties. A contract which in practice means bombing Serbian territories, which, as the president noted, prompts a negative reaction in Russia. The same reaction, in Yeltsin's words, is prompted by attempts to expand NATO.

Russia's relations with the United Nations, which is going through not the best of times, do not, however, preoccupy observers on the American continent too much. The press here is much more keenly interested in the political future of Andrey Kozyrev, whose visit to New York as foreign minister is described here as his farewell visit. THE NEW YORK TIMES publishes under the heading "Kozyrev's Days Are Numbered" an article full of bewilderment at Boris Yeltsin's dissatisfaction with the work of the head of the Russian foreign policy department. Recent remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are cited, to the effect that Kozyrev "did the job very effectively." Reflecting on the factors that prompted Yeltsin suddenly to postpone the decision that appeared to have already been made to replace Kozyrev, American experts believe that this happened after a phone call from Washington.

Boris Yeltsin is to hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Hyde Park 23 October. As both their press services report, they will talk about ways of strengthening European security, NATO expansion, Russia's participation in peacekeeping operations, and the problems of flank restrictions under the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe. They are also expected to discuss relations between the United States and Russia, which have become markedly more difficult recently. As this issue is signed to press, the two presidents will only be on their way to Hyde Park.

Yeltsin To Present Bosnian 'Separate Force' Plan

LD2210082995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0415 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] At the briefing held for Russian journalists after the meeting with the UN secretary general, Sergey Medvedev, press secretary for the Russian Federation president, said that during the conversation, Boris Yeltsin explained Russia's well-known stand with regard to the plans to expand NATO to the east. The expansion of this organization into the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will cause tension on the continent, the Russian president thinks. "We have already lived in a split world, and such plans may take us back to the past," the press secretary cited the words of Yeltsin. "This is not only the opinion of politicians, but the view of Russia's citizens as well."

Boris Yeltsin noted in a sufficiently harsh manner [v dostatochno zhestkoy forme] that the UN Secretariat had bypassed the Security Council in concluding the agreement with NATO, as a result of which the air strikes against the Serb positions in Bosnia were carried out. Russia does not think the practice of concluding this type of agreement behind the back of the Security Council is normal and insists that it not be repeated in the future, said S. Medvedev.

During the conversation with Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the Russian Federation president stressed that Russia is not withdrawing from participation in resolving the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, but will completely act like an individual state and intends to have its own separate force there, S. Medvedev said. What is thus born in mind is that each country or group of countries should bear responsibility for the sector where they take control. Boris Yeltsin hopes to agree on such an approach to the participation of the multinational forces in the peace process during the meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, which is scheduled to take place on Monday, and is reckoning on understanding for the Russian position on the part of the American side. The Russian Federation president stressed that Russia will naturally be subject to the decisions of the Security Council and will be guided by the UN Charter. Russia is in favor of a strong United Nations Organization and an efficient Security Council and will apply every effort to be an effective influence for the good of peace," he said.

Medvedev Notes 'Watershed' in Russia-U.S. Ties

LD2310120795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1141 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW YORK, Oct 23 (INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin's bilateral meetings during his participation in the U.N. 50th Anniversary celebrations have led to a number of changes in Yeltsin's short-term work schedule.

Presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev reported that at Yeltsin's private meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Enrique Cardosa, the Russian leader was invited to visit Brazil, a Latin American country with which Russia shares common interests in the field of high technologies.

The visit was tentatively scheduled for next April.

The sides also agreed to set up a permanent business cooperation commission to be led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin from Russia and by Brazil's Vice-President.

As a result of an exchange of views during the break, it was agreed in principle that Croatia's President Franjo Tudzman will visit Moscow. Tudzman spoke at the U.N. general Assembly's jubilee session on Sunday as did Yeltsin.

Yeltsin and India's Prime Minister Narasimha Rao discussed bilateral ties, which the two leaders said reached "the level of strategic partnership," and also explored the possibility of joint efforts to minimize the impact of the conflict in Afghanistan on Tajikistan, maintaining friendly ties with Russia.

Yeltsin's get-together with his South African opposite number Nelson Mandela also focused on key cooperation issues, said Medvedev.

Touching on Yeltsin's meeting with U.S. president Clinton scheduled for Monday, Medvedev noted that a "watershed" had lately emerged in relations between the two countries, a watershed that would determine the future of bilateral ties.

"Boris Yeltsin has always found a common language with Bill Clinton and hopes to find one this time, too," Medvedev said, adding that the Russian president wished the American side would "understand Russia's peace initiatives on Bosnia correctly." "We are always ready to send a Russian peace-keeping contingent there, although that will cost us a pretty penny," Medvedev remarked. However, all countries that take part in peacemaking actions in Bosnia, just like groups of states (i.e. NATO), will be responsible for peace-making operations in their particular areas, Medvedev said, explaining Yeltsin's position on the issue.

Yeltsin Meets UN's Butrus-Ghali in New York

LD2210062395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0045 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 22 Oct — On Saturday evening UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has arrived in New York to take part in the special ceremonial session of the General Assembly on the occasion of the 50th anniversary on the United Nations.

At the beginning of the meeting, which took place in the UN secretary general's office, Butrus-Ghali thanked Boris Yeltsin for coming to New York to take part in the jubilee celebrations, as well as for the support that the Russian Federation is rendering the organization.

During the conversation, which lasted for 30 minutes, the Russian president and the UN secretary general discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia, having particularly stressed the Contact Group's efforts to achieve peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The UN secretary general stressed that the United Nations should take part in the solutions for which they will bear responsibility.

Butrus-Ghali and Boris Yeltsin also discussed the situation surrounding Iraq. The UN secretary general told the Russian president about the efforts aimed at convincing the Iraqi Government to agree to Security Council Resolution 986, which proposes that Baghdad sell $1 billion worth of oil to cover UN expenditure on purchases of foodstuffs for the Iraqi population.

The UN secretary general also told the Russian president about the efforts of the community of nations to achieve peace in Tajikistan, Georgia, and Afghanistan.

During the conversation, Butrus-Ghali touched upon the subject of the convention banning chemical weapons and called upon Russia to ratify it as soon as possible. President Yeltsin said that this is one of his intentions.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Sergey Lavrov, the Russian Federation's permanent representative at the United Nations, were present at the meeting.

Yeltsin Has 3-Minute Meeting With Castro at UN

LD2210183195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1739 GMT 22 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 22 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a short, about three-minutes long, meeting with Fidel Castro, the chairman of the Cuban Council of State, at the UN headquarters today. The meeting took place prior to the official luncheon given by the UN secretary general in honor of heads of state and governments who arrived for the opening of the special session of the UN General Assembly marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Yeltsin Accepts Brazilian President's Invitation

LD2210233095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2105 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 22 Oct — Russian President Boris Yeltsin held a meeting today at the UN headquarters with the Brazilian President Fernando Cardoso. During the meeting the Brazilian president invited Yeltsin to pay an official visit to Brazil. This invitation was accepted. According to a preliminary agreement the visit will take place in April of next year.

A businesslike meeting took place between the presidents of Russia and Brazil, which touched upon bilateral cooperation in the field of aircraft construction, atomic energy, and space. The Brazilian leader showed particular interest in Russia's space launches.

The concrete result of the talks was an agreement on the creation of a joint commission, which will work on the principle of the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission. Such a commission will be formed for cooperation with Brazil. Viktor Chernomyrdin will head it from the Russian side and Vice President Marco Maciel will head it on the Brazilian side.

Answering journalists' question as to why Yeltsin in particular decided to meet the Brazilian president, the

Russian president's press secretary Sergey Medvedev recalled that Brazil was the largest country of South America, which has great economic potential and advanced technology. He noted that Yeltsin "has never been to South America during his presidency or before it," and therefore has "quite a natural interest" in Brazil.

Yeltsin, Indian Premier Discuss Ties

LD2210214995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2011 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 22 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin held a meeting today with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the UN headquarters. During the meeting, held within the framework of the special UN 50th anniversary session, considerable attention was given to the development of bilateral economic ties, and also military cooperation and in the field of technology between the two countries.

A very detailed and honest meeting was held, during which mutual satisfaction was expressed on the development of bilateral relations. Boris Yeltsin expressed the opinion that relations between Russia and India have practically reached the level of strategic partnership. Narasimha Rao agreed with him.

Both countries are linked, in most cases, by common interests, closeness of approaches to international affairs, and this created a good and honest atmosphere for the meeting. In particular, mutual interest was expressed in establishing stability in western Asia, ending the conflict in Afghanistan, which influences the situation in Tajikistan, with which Russia maintains very close ties and friendly relations.

In the field of bilateral relations the wish for the speedy start of the work of the bilateral intergovernmental commission, which will deal with the further development of Russian-Indian ties including the issue of settling mutual debts, was expressed.

Russia, France Find 'Compromise' on Nuclear Testing

LD2110114195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1104 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 21 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — "As far as nuclear testing is concerned, we have found a compromise that does not place France in a complicated situation," Russian President Boris Yeltsin told ITAR-TASS after a news conference that took place in Paris following the end of the French-Russian summit talks.

The issue of nuclear tests carried out by France was not raised at the news conference but when the news conference was over, Yeltsin agreed to address the issue of nuclear tests exclusively for ITAR-TASS.

Yeltsin Confirms Russian NATO Cooperation in Bosnia

LD2110114095 Paris LCI Television in French 1100 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been another meeting between Jacques Chirac and Boris Yeltsin at the Elysee Palace, after yesterday's talks at the Chateau de Rambouillet. The discussions took in bilateral relations and the Russian domestic situation, but the two heads of state, in their news conference, spoke mainly about former Yugoslavia and the possibility of deploying a multinational peacekeeping force composed of Russian soldiers [as heard].

[Begin recording] [Jacques Chirac, in progress] ... must take its share of responsibility. And that poses a problem of command structure, taking NATO's existence into account. So there has to be an accord between NATO and the Russian authorities on the arrangement of the command structure for what will be, I think — or I hope — the zone for which Russia will take responsibility.

[Yeltsin, in Russian with superimposed French translation] Of course, Russian troops will be participating, but not under NATO command. In other words, the Russian troops will have their own command, but it is obvious that there will be coordination, as the president of the French Republic has just said, and there will be cooperation so that everything works smoothly. [end recording]

Chirac: NATO Expansion Debate 'Should Be Deepened'

LD2110132195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, October 21 (ITAR-TASS) — "There are differences between Russia and the United States on NATO expansion," French President Jacques Chirac told a news conference which was on the results of the Russian-French summit here on Saturday [21 October].

"Therefore, the discussion on this problem should be deepened. We understand a desire by some European countries to join the security system. But Russia's objections should be understood too.

"To my mind, it is necessary to reach a real accord on this issue between the main interested parties — Europeans, Americans and Russians so that it would be possible to develop a perfect system, suitable to all and ensuring security of everyone," Chirac stressed.

"My position and that of the French president coincide in the approach to this item," Russian President Boris Yeltsin added. "But there are also other countries. Chirac and I should try to convince them, above all U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"Chirac intends to speak with him. Following the jubilee session of the U.N. General Assembly, we decided to spend all day with the U.S. president. We shall also discuss this issue which will occupy a place of prominence," the Russian leader said.

Yeltsin, Chirac News Conference in Paris Shown

LD2110140195 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Report over video by correspondent V. Grigoryev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] After their talks the presidents of France and of Russia gave a joint news conference. [video shows Yeltsin and Chirac sitting at a table, news conference under way]

Boris Yeltsin and Jacques Chirac expressed their great satisfaction with the talks. The Russian president said the agenda of the talks included such topics as the structure of European security for the 21st century, NATO's eastward expansion, settling the Yugoslav crisis, and bilateral relations. Boris Yeltsin emphasized that France's and Russia's positions are identical on many issues. In particular, this goes for the issue of NATO expansion. All we need to do, Boris Yeltsin said, is to try to persuade Bill Clinton and other NATO leaders to accept our decision.

In answer to journalists' questions, the Russian president again underscored our country's stand on deploying international peace-keeping forces in the former Yugoslavia. [Video cuts to show Yeltsin speaking]

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Russian troops will take part [in the Bosnia peace-keeping operation], but in no way will they be subordinate to NATO. They will have their own command. But of course, just as the president of France said, they will cooperate with others to achieve success there. [end recording]

Further Reportage on Paris Conference

LD2110184895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Oct 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted newsreader Tatyana Mitkova reports runup to Yeltsin's visit to Paris] [Correspondent reporting from Paris, over video of photocalls, news conference] Boris Yeltsin and Jacques Chirac began their news conference on the Russian president's visit to France later than scheduled. The two heads of state were continuing the talks they had begun in Rambouillet the day before. [Passage omitted: Naina Yeltsin's activities]

Speaking about the talks as a whole, one can point out that for the first time in the entire history of Russian-French summits, Russia's domestic problems were not discussed. Given that, the number of topics discussed was reduced to four: European security, Bosnia, Russia's relations with NATO, and nuclear tests. And as the Russian president announced today, he was pleased with the way the talks with Jacques Chirac had gone.

[Begin Yeltsin recording, speaking at news conference] We exchanged and compared our ideas, and I am pleased to be able to say that just as on other issues, our opinions on international affairs and on how to approach various problems, including Bosnia, coincide. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The two leaders also commented that the Moscow conference planned for the end of October could be the start of a process of a real settlement in the Balkans. Jacques Chirac is of the view that Moscow can get the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to sit down together at the negotiating table. The Russian and French presidents also believe that Russia should take part in the military operations in the Balkans.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Russian troops will take part, but in no way will they be subordinate to NATO. They will have their own command. But of course, just as the president of France said, they will cooperate with others to achieve success there. [end recording]

[Correspondent] However, Boris Yeltsin pointed out that the main task of both presidents now is to persuade the leaders of other states to adopt their approach to resolving the Bosnian conflict.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The two of us have come to agreement. But it would be simply unethical to publish our opinions without the opinions of the U.S. president, or Major, or Kohl. So we'll meet, we'll organize a cosy little meeting between us on the matter, and I think we shall nevertheless find a compromise point of view — because we cannot not find one! It is our duty to find one. It is our duty, as leaders of the major countries of the world, to unravel this knot. And unravel it we will! [end recording]

[Correspondent] [Passage omitted: correspondent summarizes Chirac's comments on NATO expansion] As for Russia's stance on the French nuclear tests, Boris

Yeltsin told Russian journalists after the news conference that he and Jacques Chirac had found a compromise which would not put France into a false position.

Chirac, Yeltsin Agree to Oct Balkan Summit in Moscow

AU2010190895 Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Oct 20 (AFP) — Presidents Jacques Chirac and Boris Yeltsin said Friday [20 October] a summit bringing together the Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian presidents together with the five-nation contact group could be held in Moscow before the end of the month, a French presidential spokeswoman said.

The meeting would take place shortly before the three Balkan leaders were due to travel to the United States for a U.S.-mediated session of talks aimed at resolving the four-year conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

The presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia, respectively Alija Izetbegovic, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, are due to hold talks in the United States from October 31 onwards with a view to drawing up a peace treaty for Bosnia. A summit for signing of the treaty is to be held in Paris.

Colonna said "a conference on the balance of forces in the Balkans could be held in Moscow in the first half of 1996."

Chirac and his Russian counterpart devoted much of their meeting at Rambouillet, west of Paris, during Yeltsin's 36-hour stopover visit to a discussion of the peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Catherine Colonna said.

The two leaders discussed the role to be played by Russian troops in helping to implement a current ceasefire in Bosnia.

Chirac said Russia could be given its own sector of deployment "if the size of their contingent justified it," the spokeswoman said.

The contact group, whose 1994 plan forms the basis for the present U.S.-brokered peace process, comprises Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Yeltsin, Chirac Agree on Russia's Role in Bosnia

LD2110123095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1141 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikita Yermakov, Yelena Zelenina, Mikhail Kalmykov, Yuriy Lopatin, and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 21 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — "It goes without saying that Russia should be present in the system which is being built to back up the plan for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia," President Jacques Chirac said speaking at a news conference devoted to the results of the French-Russian summit talks and given prior to the departure of the Russian president for New York. "Russia must have its share of responsibility, and the resulting problem is the one of command of the peace-keeping forces. Taking into account the NATO factor, this bloc [NATO] and the Russian leadership should reach an accord with regard to the procedures of commanding these forces."

"Russian troops will take part, but by no means will they obey NATO," Boris Yeltsin added for his part. "Russia will have its own command, and they will coordinate (their actions—ITAR-TASS) with each other so that everything will be all right."

Kozyrev Holds Talks With UNESCO Head in Paris

LD2110115195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By Andrey Krasnoshchekov and Igor Shchegolev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, October 21 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor discussed prospects for expanding cooperation between Russia and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation at a meeting held here on Friday [20 October].

Mayor noted at a briefing with reporters that the sides concentrated on UNESCO's role in strengthening peace and understanding between nations. "This organisation was created 50 years ago so that education, science and culture became efficient instruments to build and strengthen peace," he stressed.

Mayor expressed hope that if UNESCO copes with this peace-making mission, "there will be less cases when a need will arise to use international forces to maintain peace".

The Russian minister put forth an initiative at the meeting to introduce special educational programmes at Russian schools, dealing with tolerance, human rights and democracy.

In Kozyrev's opinion, "this would help Russia to become more open to the world and to overcome isolation trends in the country".

Kozyrev and Mayor also discussed several joint programmes for cooperation between Russia and UNESCO. For instance, the director-general reported that the sides discussed restoration of the Bolshoy Theatre in Moscow.

"We attach much importance to the project, since the Bolshoy is a cultural symbol of not only Russia but of the entire world," Mayor underlined. He reported that a major charity concert will be held at the Bolshoy Theatre on November 24 to collect donations for the restoration of that unique world cultural and musical centre.

Kozyrev on Summit, Anti-U.S. Sentiment, Chechnya

MK2110101195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 9

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Vladimir Abarinov; place and date not given: "Andrey Kozyrev: 'Chechnya Was No Rubicon for Me.' The Russian Federation Foreign Minister Answers SEGODNYA Observer's Questions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abarinov] After your latest trip to the United States and meetings with Clinton and Christopher, you said there was a possibility that the summit would be held in raised tones. What are the prospects, as they are viewed now?

[Kozyrev] Those of a serious talk. Raised tones are precisely what should be avoided. There are circles in the United States that would like to see Russia as a junior partner. This is what could cause a collision. True, our interests do not coincide on all matters. If intolerance is expressed, this could strike a fire. We are counting on the summit to be held in a businesslike atmosphere, rather than in raised tones. The president is willing to look for solutions, rather than to engage in confrontation. Solutions, however, can only be found by presidents — after all, it is they who are the vehicles of statehood. We simply lack the power to do this. Our task is to elaborate an issue in full detail, leaving no virgin land for the presidents, and to plow the field, so as to make it clear what should be sown and where. I have an impression that the Americans would also like to avoid raised tones.

[Abarinov] This will probably be the first Russian-American summit of the past few years to be held in an atmosphere of an unprecedented rise in anti-Western and anti-American sentiments in Russia. Is this trend worrying you?

[Kozyrev] It is especially important that the summit be held precisely now, when both countries are entering the period of a full-scale election campaign. A hard-line summit might lead to a situation making an [election] campaign high-pitched, too. You are right that there is some pressure on the part of circles that would like to convert differences into a pretext for resuscitating an enemy image. There are such circles in the United States as well. This is why it is important to arrive at a tone during the summit that would affirm an equal partnership. Then the election campaign will also feature an image of a partner, though a tough one, rather than an enemy.

[Abarinov] Still, to what extent do anti-American sentiments reflect true public opinion and to what extent are they inspired by the "circles?"

[Kozyrev] Both are true. I think the Russian people have no anti-Western instinct. This trend is contradictory to the national and state interests of Russia. For 40 years we were living in an atmosphere of state-mediated anti-Americanism and were only losing by that. After all, we do not need any confrontation, since we have no irreconcilable interests.

[Abarinov] There is, however, a struggle for spheres of influence.

[Kozyrev] This struggle is turning into a mortal fight for both sides. An element of competition will always be there. I have been working in this building for 20 years and, as a professional, I know that similar complex relations of partnership and competition exist between NATO members. It is not true that there are no differences within NATO. They do exist and existed before, although not in such grotesque form as PRAVDA used to depict them, where every [NATO] session was given as a "conspiracy of imperialists," but, at the same time, also as "yet another failure."

[Abarinov] Russian diplomacy, however, did have a period of euphoria in its relations with the West.

[Kozyrev] It was the West that had euphoria. You know, our relations could have developed in a different way. I continue to insist — and I will stick to this, as people say, until the end of my days — that Western countries are as natural as partners of Russia as they used to be as the natural enemies of the USSR. Politics, however, is made by concrete people, and to err is human. Taking our own country as an example, we see that it was Zhirinovskiy who won the election, contrary to any reason. This is also a result of the democratic process, but this is a miscarriage of democracy. When the transition period started, Western politicians could have developed a Marshall Plan for Russia — there was a precedent in history, when the successors of Roosevelt and Churchill became aware of their responsibility for the future of postwar Europe. NATO, too, is not merely a military union — it is also a mechanism for consolidating Western democracies. The present Western politicians have missed an opportunity: They failed to gather their willpower to come up with a new realistic Marshall Plan. This was a mistake, and I keep saying this to them. In this sense, therefore, criticism of the West is well-grounded enough.

[Abarinov] In early 1992, when we were sitting in this very room, you warned against the threat of a comeback by the apparatchiks. It often seems that this comeback has already taken place, because people who propagate ideas that you and I are striving to debunk are no marginal figures, no irreconcilable opposition — they are quite respectable political figures, not infrequently high-ranking officials. It is from them that we hear appeals not only to slam the door on the Americans, but also to retarget missiles against Eastern Europe, to occupy the Baltic states, to withdraw from the nonproliferation regime, and to offer nuclear and missile technologies to anyone who wishes, to enter into a military and political alliance with Iran, and to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in the Persian Gulf....

[Kozyrev] Such plans have not been presented to the president, and the president does not approve of them. All of us are former Soviet people. Moses was leading his people about the desert for 40 years so as to eliminate the spirit of servitude, but we want to attain this in four years. We do not know how to live in a normal world, because we have been taught that we shall live in a conflict-free world. Forces that were linked with the arms race and used to profit from it still exist, and from time to time they make attempts to come back, either through the apparatus, or through parties or the Duma. We have quite a number of politicians who, at first, were for partnership (for instance, Lukin, former ambassador to the United States), but declare now that it is time to start using raised tones. Do not drive a controversy on a specific problem into the deadlock of confrontation. Confrontation does not suggest any solution — it leads to deadlock. Someone, however, can profit from this in his narrow corporate and mercenary interests.

[Abarinov] I have a question that can hardly be avoided in a conversation with an active politician — I mean Chechnya. Could you tell me, was it a kind of Rubicon personally for you and for the Foreign Ministry?

[Kozyrev] Chechnya is a very serious problem for the whole of Russian society. True, the Chechen war is not making us stronger. Many people have forgotten, however, that some time ago Dudayev used to travel about the whole world in his personal plane saying that he had a nuclear bomb that he was going to use against Moscow. This did not contribute to a rise in the prestige of Russia, either. There was no Rubicon for me here. When I was told that the boil could be excised, I agreed. Generally speaking, it is not only our right, but also our obligation not to allow the existence of uncontrollable armed formations on our territory. The Foreign Ministry is defending the territorial integrity of this country. International law says that a country not only can, but must use force in such cases. The nature of this operation has not strengthened our positions, but there is no Rubicon here. When I, as a minister, am asked: "What is your attitude to the use of force for the restoration of order?" I reply that it would be good to do this. After all, this means the same as taking South Korean tourists hostage: Once negotiations failed, force had to be used to liberate them. How this was done is beyond my competence. I may have my own opinion as a private person, but as a minister I am obliged to stand for the territorial integrity of the country. Therefore, there are no two Kozyrevs. In the same way as in 1991 I was for letting OSCE experts into the Baltic states, I did my best now to have an OSCE mission in Chechnya, because human rights are no internal matter.

Duma Official Favors Balkan Force Under UN

LD2310084495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0653 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 23 Oct — The Balkans should have a coalition of peacekeeping forces under UN auspices, according to Lt-Col Sergey Glotov, the chairman of the State Duma's subcommittee for federation and regional policy. He reached this conclusion from a recent visit to former Yugoslavia republics and from speaking to local people and members of our Russian UN battalion (the "Rusbat"), he told ITAR-TASS.

"Our officers and men are willing to serve on the disengagement line and uphold peace within their areas of responsibility, despite the risks and difficulties. Both the Serbs and our soldiers are unanimous that military contingents should not be deprived of their identity. American, Canadian and Russian battalions looking after their zones should definitely have national, rather than NATO, affiliation," Glotov said.

Bearing in mind the experience of the past few years, all peacekeeping units should have their own command and an overall control structure for peacekeeping, he said. "Any other system would be viewed as a NATO occupation. The local people are strongly against German or

Turkish contingents, and would inevitably launch large-scale attacks on these "peacekeepers", Glotov stressed.

The Russian proposal for a Balkans peacekeeping operation, as presented on Sunday at the 50th anniversary UN session, is in Russia's interests and viable, Glotov said. Allocation of a separate zone for the Russian Federation and subordination of Russian peacekeepers to the UN alone would let our country perform peacekeeping duties on equal terms with all others and without detriment to its prestige as a great power. "By doing this, our country would win support not only in Bosnia-Herzegovina but in the entire southern European region, which is linked to Russia by tradition and history," the Duma subcommittee chairman thought.

Bosnia Operation Seen as Turning Point in History

MK2110085695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov: "Between Collective Security and a Besieged Fortress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The problem of a Russian contingent's participation in the new peacekeeping operation in Bosnia has, at a minimum, three aspects. This is not only a question of subordination, but also those of funding the contingent and the purpose of its use. The Americans stand firm that every country participating in the coalition will pay for the stay of its troops from its own budget. The only exception will be made for servicemen who will perform civil engineering functions of postwar restoration in Bosnia. It is clear that if Russia agrees to play such a limited role, the problem of a joint command will largely lose its urgency, too.

Russia, however, does not and will not agree to this. In addition, Moscow is experiencing doubts as to the expediency of bringing such a numerous contingent — 50,000 to 60,000 people — to the conflict zone. In the opinion of Russian experts, since coalition forces will be brought to the conflict zone by consent of the conflicting sides, there is nothing unprecedented in this event: This is a classic peacekeeping operation, fully complying with the UN Charter, with all that this implies. After all, not so much strategic as political control over the operation will be of importance, which is supposed to be effected by the Security Council.

This sounds nice. The problem, however, is that the crisis of peacekeeping practices in accordance with UN rules is a fact accepted by everyone, including the UN secretary general. Here, we tend to agree with Richard Holbrooke: The operation in Bosnia is unprecedented historically, and no return to classic peacekeeping practices can be expected. The problem to be solved by the military and the diplomats at this moment goes beyond a mere settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, no matter how important the latter is. At issue is a new model of global interaction. This task demands that considerations of any momentary political advantage and petty benefits be given up.

Until now, however, none of the sides has demonstrated appropriate flexibility. From whence, for instance, was the clear-cut timing of the derived — six months and not a day more? The answer is simple: The Americans would like to have this problem settled before the election, i.e., before November; at the same time, they would not like to spend the winter in Bosnia. As a result, Holbrooke, demonstrating the extreme intensity of the negotiating process, is warning against excessive optimism. Moscow has some worry of its own, too: It hurts to see a Russian general saluting a NATO general and, in addition, to pay for this. Why then should the American people react differently to the Russian proposal that the command be "rotated?" With such mutual intolerance, things will not start moving. A weak hope remains that, as consultations go on, the military will gradually develop, if not a liking, then at least some tolerance. It is precisely this, rather than joint exercises of military bands, that should be called partnership. Most interestingly, there are no other options, either. An option could be the besieged fortress syndrome, when a collective security is impossible in principle and everyone builds his own defenses individually.

We dare to believe that the planning of the Bosnian operation is a turning point for the future of the world. A new system of European security will arise not from academic discourses and not because of the goodwill of any exceptionally far-sighted politicians, but owing to urgent necessity due to an inability to cope with new challenges using old means.

Moscow Says NATO Proposal on Flank Zone 'Propaganda'

LD2110160595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 21 (INTERFAX) — NATO proposals to change the frontiers of Russia's flank zone within the framework of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) as "a propaganda move rather than a real step toward a solution to the problem," a senior Russian diplomat has declared in an interview with INTERFAX.

He said that at first glance western proposals looked impressive. However, a closer look shows that NATO seeks to exclude from flank restrictions "the zones or regions, where our units and, obviously our arms, are not deployed," the expert stressed.

He reported that Moscow was drafting counter proposals so that by using NATO's approach, the problem could be solved in a way that would guarantee Russia's security.

As he noted, these proposals "are being examined by the country's leadership and after endorsement will be immediately submitted to CFE partners."

According to the diplomat, Russia is going to offer NATO "to take back the peripheral regions as insignificant for the flank strategy since they have neither troops no military hardware and in exchange exclude from the flank zone the areas, where certain quantities of arms are really in place."

The source reported that Russia's President Yeltsin would discuss the flank problem with U.S. President Clinton at their meeting on October 23.

So far, it is hard to say "how Yeltsin will put this question before Clinton. Everything will depend on the richness of negotiations," the diplomat remarked.

Deputy Minister Terms Expansion 'Historical Mistake'

MK2110103995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Vadim Yegorov under the "Geopolitics" rubric: "Plans for NATO Expansion. Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Sees Them as a Historical Mistake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The working group of the Russian Federation Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission on Defense Security held a meeting, chaired by First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, on 20 October.

Commenting on a number of international political problems concerning Russian security, Andrey Kokoshin noted, in particular: "Realization of NATO's plans for eastward expansion will undoubtedly be one of the greatest historical mistakes by Western politicians, the consequences of which could manifest themselves in the most dramatic way both in the short and in the long run. The intentions of Western politicians with regard to the expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance are largely fueled by the inertia of its euphoria over victory in the "Cold War," which is not yet completely over in the West." In Kokoshin's words, the proponents of NATO's eastward expansion turned out to be unable to assess the next stage of world politics, particularly on a global, not just Euro-Atlantic, scale.

According to Andrey Kokoshin, enlargement of the North Atlantic Alliance is also a "containment" policy, but this time its target is not communism, as was the case during the Cold War, but Russia as a great state and even as a certain type of civilization that made a huge contribution to the evolution of world culture. It was also noted during the meeting of the Interdepartmental Commission's working group that in off-the-record conversations, a number of Western representatives indicated that one objective of enlarging NATO is to contain the growing clout and political influence of Germany.

People in Germany itself are becoming increasingly aware of that; over the past several months, not just doubts have been heard from its political elite regarding the advisability of such a policy, but also expressly negative statements.

A similar situation is coming about within the French political elite, where a certain renaissance of Gaullist ideas is taking place since Jacques Chirac came to power. Some members of the working group noted that there is no unanimity on this matter in the U.S. political elite, either.

According to information available to the Defense Ministry and other agencies, major Asian states are reacting increasingly negatively to the plans for NATO expansion.

Russia's firm negative stance on the North Atlantic Alliance's plans or, even more so, on plans to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of applicant countries, is in fact weightier than some in our country and abroad may think, Kokoshin said. Russia remains a nuclear superpower and is far from exhausting its ability to influence international politics despite the difficult period in its history it is going through. From the military-political point of view, NATO's eastward expansion would mean the disappearance of the low-level military activity zone that has emerged in Europe over the past several years. This would call into question the legitimacy of a considerable part of the treaty-based legal system of European security that took so many years to create.

Lukin on Yeltsin's U.S. Trip, European Security

MK2110125395 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Today Boris Yeltsin Travels From Paris to New York for the 50th Anniversary of the UN"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In addition to addressing the [UN] General Assembly's anniversary [session], Boris Yeltsin will hold talks with Bill Clinton in Hyde Park

[New York]. In the words of Vladimir Lukin, Duma International Affairs Committee chairman, the Russian Federation has a number of problems in its relations with the United States: NATO's eastward expansion, amendments to the treaty on cutting conventional weapons in Europe, and new trade rules in the post-COCOM era.

By Lukin's definition, the talks "will be momentous," since both countries are at a crossroads. "The West should choose — we have already voiced our opinion. What sort of security should we aim for? For a security of Western and Eastern Europe, tossing aside as if it were a redundant factor the former Soviet space and part of the Balkans? Or for general European security?"

We all know that Russia has repeatedly advocated the latter. But if the rest of the world picks the first option, and if, as Lukin thinks, "we find ourselves sidelined as regards this process, we would act as we see fit."

In Lukin's view, the factors that are making relations between the Russian Federation and the United States difficult are the election campaigns in both countries. There are powerful forces in the United States that are prodding its president to, "to put it rudely, spit on Russia for the sake of the future elections and to act on orders from the Congress."

And yet, Russian policy should not be anti-Clinton, because this would be wrong considering the current difficult American internal political situation.

"We ought to take account of the fact that the Clinton Administration is trying to do something to take into account our point of view despite the growing pressure upon it, and it is making concessions in some matters." As an example, Lukin refers to the recent conference in Williamsburg, which showed that our interests in the sphere of European security are considered after all. This consideration is also rather visible in the issue of the flank limits of the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Forces in Europe.

In speaking with America, Lukin thinks, one should adhere to firm principles on the one hand; on the other, it is important not to lose one's temper with America. "We are supposed to follow a pro-Russian policy, not an anti-American one. We should not bait America, but make it clearly understood where excessive American interference is unacceptable." Lukin is worried over the exaggerated American presence in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and even in Uzbekistan.

P.S. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's information, Yeltsin would be ready, in the course of his visit to the United States, to put on hold ratification of the START-II Treaty should the Americans be unyielding at the talks. Given such a "patriotic" backdrop, the Russian ambassador to the United States, Yuliy Vorontsov, may agree to fill the position of foreign minister.

Servicemen Leave for Peacekeeping Exercises in U.S.

LD2310145195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct 23 (INTERFAX) — About 150 Russian servicemen left Totsk, the Orenburg region, for the U.S. Monday to participate in the Russian-U.S. Peace-maker '95 drill, sources at the Russian Defense Ministry told INTERFAX.

The servicemen will fly to the U.S. on board two IL-76 military cargo planes following the route: Totsk - Tixi - Anadyr - Fort Riley.

The drill will be held from October 23 through November 6 in Fort Riley, Kansas. It will involve 150 servicemen from each side training in joint patrolling, humanitarian cargo convoy, separation of warring sides and measures against snipers.

Under the agreement between the Russian Defense Ministry and the U.S. Defense Department, Russian servicemen will bring only fire arms and accoutrement. The U.S. side will provide for the drill in full, including catering for the servicemen and paying for the fuel for the flight back to Russia.

The drill was originally planned for October 16-31. However, the complicated situation in Bosnia and NATO's tough measures against Bosnian Serbs prompted Moscow to suspend preparations.

Final agreement on the military exercises was reached at a meeting of Russian and U.S. defense ministers Pavel Grachev and William Perry on October 8 in Geneva.

A similar Russian-U.S. drill was held in September 1994 at the Totsk training grounds in the Russian Orenburg region, the South Urals.

Kazak Embassy Doubts Weapons Bound For DPRK

LD2310113595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By Vladimir Nadashkevich]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 23 (ITAR-TASS) — A spokesman of the Kazakh embassy in Russia doubted reports that a train loaded with weapons from his republic could have been illegally dispatched for North Korea via the Russian territory.

"This cannot happen even theoretically as the talk is about a major batch of weapons. Kazakhstan could not have done that. Our relations with Russia are so friendly that we cannot let each other down in such a way", the spokesman told TASS Monday adding that the embassy had not received any official information about the incident.

On Friday, Vitaliy Kirsanov, deputy head of the Far Eastern customs department, told TASS that a trainload of military equipment and weapons in transit from Kazakhstan to North Korea was stopped by his officers at the Kraskino checkpoint on the border with North Korea.

The train was "crammed with various weapons" from anti-aircraft guns and cannons to cartridges and large-caliber shells, he said adding that there were no documents allowing to take the dangerous cargo out.

"A special task unit, including customs officers and border guards, left for the checkpoint to investigate the inadequate situation," Kirsanov said.

However, a spokesman of the State Customs committee in Moscow told TASS he had no information on what had happened on the Russian-Korean border.

Lithuania Concerned Over 'Blackmailing' of Baltics

WS2310105895 Tallinn BNS in English
1900 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct 20, BNS — The Lithuanian embassy in Moscow expressed regret that certain political groups in Russia are making attempts at what the embassy put as open blackmailing the Baltic states [as received].

Gintaras Jatkonis, press secretary at the embassy, made the statement with reference to the text of a strategy study which appeared Friday [20 October] in the Russian daily SEGODNYA.

The study by the Russian Institute for Strategic Research claims Russia has every reason to invade the Baltic countries again.

This Russian institute is a non-governmental organization which has not published any studies of bigger format recently. However, according to sources in Moscow it has a number of influential scholars on the staff and it also may be that the institute is supported by the Russian defense ministry.

There are unconfirmed reports that these positions have been already approved at some level as a framework for a new Russian defense doctrine.

Among other things, the document states that "from a juridical and moral point of view, Russia has grounds to invade the Baltic states." The defense research institute explains these "grounds" in the following manner: the NATO membership of the Baltic states "would pose no less of a threat to Russia than the stationing of nuclear weapons in Cuba threatened the United States (in 1961)."

The authors of the document call the Baltic countries "a criminal zone, living from smuggling and ruled by mafiosi structures."

The statement of the Lithuanian embassy notes that Lithuania does not have information which would confirm that these "conceptual positions" have the official support of Moscow. The embassy also expressed the hope that Russian officials would "announce their opinion of this article and give an adequate assessment of conceptions of this sort."

Estonia 'Confused' by Foreign Ministry Statement

WS2310111495 Tallinn ETA in English
1830 GMT 22 Oct 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Oct. 20 — Estonia is confused by the statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry, published on Friday [20 October], press spokesperson of the Estonian Foreign Ministry told ETA.

Russian Ambassador in Estonia, Aleksandr Trofimov, is meeting officials of the Estonian Foreign Ministry next week, the spokesperson said in comment to the statement.

ITAR-TASS said on Friday that the Russian Foreign Ministry demands Estonia's explanations to the document distributed in the UN, which says that 2,000 square kilometres of Estonian soil is still under Russian occupation.

Russian Foreign Ministry considered it to be a hostile act towards Russia and called it a provocation by Estonia.

A representative of the Russian semi-official institute said several weeks ago that NATO expansion to the Baltic countries could force Russia to send troops these countries again. Estonia has also been criticize Estonia also on the grounds of the OSCE report presented in Vienna [as received].

Member of the Riigikogu foreign committee Tunne Kelam said several statements of the kind from Russia indicated not only conflicts in interior policies but rather a consciously followed path of politics or an uncontrolled situation in Russia.

Kelam drew parallels with the situation in 1939 and 1940 and called it a harsh and irresponsible pressure on a small country.

OSCE Group Sends Message to Armenia, Azerbaijan

LD2110164895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 21 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The heads of the states co-chairing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's [OSCE] Minsk group for Nagorno-Karabakh, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, have sent a message to Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. It was handed to Ter-Petrosyan in Yerevan by Russian Ambassador Andrey Urnov and, on behalf of Finland, by French Ambassador France d'Arteng, the Armenian leader's press service announced today. It also distributed the text of the message.

Appointed by the OSCE to co-chair the Minsk process for a peace settlement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Russian Federation and Finland persistently strive to accelerate the reaching of an agreement between the sides, the message says. The co-chairmen's efforts have been actively supported by all members of the OSCE Minsk group.

The cornerstones of the peace process, and the main preconditions for a settlement are guarantees that hostilities will not resume and that the cease-fire will hold, and these have been in place for a year and a half. The outcome of this truce depends on the warring sides themselves. The 50th UN General Assembly provides an historic opportunity to reaffirm the political will for peace and stability in the Transcaucasus and for the use of exclusively peaceful methods of problem-solving, the message's authors write. In their opinion, intensive work on a political accord has shown the prime importance of the sides' desire to find equitable compromises. They must courageously move toward each other, the message says.

We, it continues, call on the sides to focus on the major and closely interwoven issues of withdrawal from occupied land, the soonest possible return of people to their homes, and the safety of the Nagorno-Karabakh people. We believe that mutual understanding over Lachin in particular would be an important stimulus for the negotiations, the Russian and Finnish presidents write, referring to the corridor linking Armenia with Nagorno-Karabakh. More tolerance of each other and more military restraint is required, they believe. Concessions cannot be unilateral, Yeltsin and Ahtisaari believe. Likewise, the fruits of peace will be indisputable and mutual, they write. It is vital not to lose time, not to miss this opportunity to preserve the peace that could open the door in the region to wide-ranging international cooperation. Russia and Finland, for their part, will continue their efforts under the OSCE's auspices to achieve a worthy peace settlement based on UN and OSCE guidelines and making equitable allowance for the sides' lawful interests.

An identical missive has been sent to the president of Azerbaijan, according to the authors. The leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh has been apprised of these messages, they said.

As he accepted the message, President Ter-Petrosyan welcomed the peacemaking efforts of the co-chairmen and members of the OSCE Minsk group and voiced the hope that they will reach a successful conclusion, his press service reported.

Gaydar: Iran Nuclear Ties Within 'International Norms'

LD2210092895 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct. 22, IRNA — A Russian senior parliamentarian and leader of the [Russia's] Choice group at the Duma (lower house of parliament), Yegor Gaydar, said here Friday [20 October] that Tehran-Moscow nuclear cooperation is in accordance with all international norms and regulations and no country will be threatened by such collaboration.

He termed such cooperation as useful and assessed that the prospects of bilateral ties would be bright in view of the friendly relations which have existed between Iran and Russia in the past few years.

Commenting on the suitable geographical conditions of the two neighboring countries, Gaydar reiterated that both the Islamic republic of Iran and Russia will realize substantial benefits via the promotion of bilateral economic and trade relations.

Terming Iran's principal stance on regional developments particularly regarding the Tajik crisis, as positive and constructive, he stated that discussions may lead to permanent peace and security in the whole region.

He announced that following the elections in the Duma, he will pay a visit to the Islamic Republic in response to the invitation of Iranian officials.

Political Issues

Kozyrev Responds To Reports of 'Impending Dismissal'

LD2010210795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2057 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Andrey Krasnoshchyokov and Igor Shchyogolev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, October 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has voiced his response to the media reports on his impending dismissal.

Yeltsin, departing for his official visit to France together with Kozyrev today, backtracked on his Thursday statement at a news conference that he considered replacement of Kozyrev, saying that the foreign minister remains in his post.

"I feel as I did yesterday," Kozyrev told reporters today.

"The president is being exposed to a strong pressure from dark forces, from people whose mind is closed, who cannot imagine Russia a normal member of the international community. He need be helped to resist this pressure," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev stressed that he is not pro-Western, but struggles for Russia's interests.

However, a weighed and open approach to this job requires an understanding that it is to interests of Russia to develop ties with the West, as it is to interests of the West, Kozyrev continued.

He said the Russian diplomacy should work better to promote Russia's cooperation with international organisations and educate the Russians into the notion that Russia may live only with the world around it.

Otherwise, Russia will return behind the iron curtain or some sort of a fence, with Russian pseudo patriots sitting behind it and scaring the world with their surprises, Kozyrev said.

Daily Names Potential Candidates

MM2010175495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Maksim Yusin: "Who Follows Kozyrev?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before departing for Paris on the morning of 20 October Boris Yeltsin stated at Vnukovo Airport that Andrey Kozyrev will remain in the foreign minister's post, admittedly without saying for how long. These words are unlikely to have reassured Andrey Vladimirovich: After the president's news conference Thursday [19 December] the Foreign Ministry chief can hardly be under any illusions as to his future. The fate of post-Soviet Russia's first foreign minister is effectively a foregone conclusion. Who is going to replace him?

The range of candidates is fairly extensive. The list of contenders can be conveniently divided into two groups: Foreign Ministry staffers and "outsiders." As a rule those in the first category are people who do not belong to "Kozyrev's team" and whose promotion to leading positions in Russian diplomacy took place in times when Andrey Vladimirovich was still an unknown official in the USSR Foreign Ministry International Organizations Administration. Younger diplomats who entered the ministry leadership following the Soviet Union's disintegration are too closely associated with their boss and his policies.

The figure of a veteran who has never been part of Kozyrev's entourage looks more acceptable in this sense. The names of Russia's Ambassador in Washington Yuliy Vorontsov and Ambassador in London Anatoliy Adamishin are being mentioned as potential Foreign Ministry candidates increasingly frequently. Both have a reputation as fairly conservative politicians (compared with the "early" Kozyrev, at any rate) and should not be rejected by the Duma's communist-nationalist majority.

It would be extremely risky from the viewpoint of their future careers for younger and more ambitious diplomats to accept the offer to head the Foreign Ministry right now. The situation in Russia is too unstable. If Yeltsin loses the upcoming presidential election he could quite easily take his entire team into political oblivion with him, including the Foreign Ministry chief, who will one way or another be associated with a defeated head of state. This is why few people are mentioning Vitaliy Churkin, Russia's best-known diplomat, who is riding out Moscow's political storms in Brussels, as Kozyrev's possible successor. His time has not yet come, although it cannot be ruled out that Vitaliy Ivanovich's candidacy for the ministerial post will be seriously considered as early as June next year.

The "outsiders" include the ostensible favorite Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee. Especially as Vladimir Petrovich has never made any particular secret of his desire to hold Kozyrev's job. To hold it not for a few months but for a really long time, and herein lies the difficulty of the choice facing Lukin. Should he accept Yeltsin's possible offer he would, as it were, become a member of the "party of power," heaping on himself all its "sins," which would not be the best preelection gift for the "YaBLoko" bloc. It is hardly worth Lukin's while jumping the gun: In eight months' time, after the presidential election, he will have a good chance of heading the Foreign Ministry without linking his fate with Yeltsin's team.

There is one other possible candidate — Dmitriy Ryurikov, the president's foreign affairs adviser. His nomination seems not so very unlikely, bearing in mind that there have already been precedents for Yeltsin appointing people from his inner circle to key posts in the state (the security minister, for example). In addition, in the last few weeks there have been periodic rumors of Vice Premier Vitaliy Ignatenko's impending arrival in Smolenskaya Square [location of Foreign Ministry], and the name of Foreign Intelligence Service Director Yevgeniy Primakov has also occasionally cropped up.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that after Kozyrev the Foreign Ministry will pursue the same "presidential foreign policy" as it did under Kozyrev. The only thing for which Yeltsin could never criticize the disgraced minister is for being excessively principled, independent, and unwilling to adapt his views to the Kremlin's constantly changing foreign policy line. Boris Nikolayevich will hardly allow the new head of Russian diplomacy to have shortcomings of which his predecessor, who despite all the forecasts and rumors kept his post for five years, was so fortunately devoid.

Yeltsin To Play Kozyrev 'Card' at Summit

MK2110142595 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Oct p 1

[Report by Natalya Kalashnikova: "There Will Be No Riding Roughshod, But a Deputy Will Be Found"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin's fancy wording at his Thursday [19 October] briefing as regards the political future of the head of the Foreign Ministry — Andrey Kozyrev — remained less than fully understood not only by the Russian and foreign mass media, but by the minister himself. Yesterday, before the president left for Paris, Kozyrev and Yeltsin had a long talk at "Vnukovo-2 [airport]." After this, the president, pointing his finger at the minister, explained with a smile: "He is asking me, 'Shall I go with you or not?' So my answer is: Yes, yes, you shall — for now." It turned out that when Yeltsin spoke of the need to strengthen the Foreign Ministry's personnel, he "did not necessarily have the minister in mind."

On Thursday, Yeltsin, having expressed his dissatisfaction with both the Foreign Ministry and its head — noting, however, that he would not "ride roughshod" over the minister (saying that he could continue to work) — gave special emphasis to the poor coordination between Smolenskaya Ploshchad [Foreign Ministry] and other agencies. This was precisely Kozyrev's main misdeed — poor work with other ministers. At "Vnukovo-2," however, the spirit of the president's criticism suddenly changed to the purely internal, personnel problems of the Foreign Ministry. Yeltsin lamented compassionately that "Kozyrev is unable to cope with everything," being often away and, therefore, he cannot deal well enough with the management of the Foreign Ministry staff. "After all, he has 3,000 people. This is where he loses out," Yeltsin said, promising paternally: "We will find a good deputy for him. I promised to help him with this. But Kozyrev himself should be watchful, too."

This could have probably put an end to all misunderstandings, had there been, in place of Kozyrev, say, a minister for the milk or timber industries: Well, the president chides and criticizes someone a bit — this is nothing extraordinary, since the matter is purely domestic. It is not so simple, however, when it comes to the head of the Foreign Ministry. The world cannot remain indifferent to a person who holds such an office in a country that is seeking to play the role of a great power, especially taking into consideration that Kozyrev is the first and only head of the Russian Foreign Ministry: It is during his five-year term that the new Moscow has been building its relations with foreign countries. In addition, it is Kozyrev that his Western partners — including those with whom Yeltsin will converse in the next few days — have gotten used to seeing at the negotiating table. Why, then, such a demarche? Yeltsin must have been well aware of the fact that any talk about having the minister dismissed could be taken in the West as a sure sign of mistrust in the minister in this country and would affect the trust he enjoys abroad — or that the West will think that, together with the minister, Yeltsin has decided to change course, too. Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono has already expressed his "surprise" over the possible dismissal of Kozyrev, although the latter, in fact, "has never been indulgent with Japan." The White House press secretary, having noted that the situation with Kozyrev is linked with internal political discussions in Russia rather than with international affairs, said diplomatically that, irrespective of the outcome, "we hope to maintain our close working relations with Russia and good working relations with a new foreign minister." He added, however: "We cannot say now what Boris Yeltsin's statement precisely means. We shall continue to be in contact with the Russian side about this matter."

Washington's laconic comment is interesting, since it reinforces the supposition that during the Russian-U.S. summit (in private, as the presidents-friends customarily do) there will surely be talk about Kozyrev, and Yeltsin will skillfully play this card. He can say: Yes, such a plan does exist — the opposition is pressing hard, and you, too, are further aggravating the situation with your NATO. In other words, the future of the minister largely depends on how the West — which does not need a change in Russia's foreign political course at all — will react. If it gives up, this will mean that Yeltsin's game was successful. As for the minister, he could then be pardoned, but — just in case — kept on alert, so that he would feel ill at ease and thankful. If, however, the West does not give up, there may be many options for his future. Everything will depend then entirely on Russian domestic matters. In this case, of great value will be not only Kozyrev — to be sacrificed by the president to the opposition — but also his office, if a political need arises for Yeltsin to pass it into some "necessary" or simply "universally acceptable" hands: The problem is that a constructive approach to having this situation resolved (say, replacement of Kozyrev as "professionally unsuitable for his job" by someone who is "super-suitable") is hardly possible because it does not fit in with the logic of Yeltsin's latest steps. It should be openly admitted that, with the situation being so delicate, he acted not exactly in a Versailles-like manner, since when there is the wish to dismiss a minister — and, the more so, the head of the Foreign Ministry — he is simply dismissed, and no show is made about this.

Lukin Interviewed on Foreign Policy, Yeltsin's Trip

LD2210214495 Moscow NTV in Russian
1800 GMT 22 Oct 95

[From the "Itogi" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev] In the studio is Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee.

Vladimir Petrovich, you will agree that we have an unprecedented situation here: On the eve of a major trip abroad, his visit to France, his address to the UN General Assembly, and the meeting with Bill Clinton, the president all of a sudden pronounces what is in effect a vote of no-confidence in his foreign minister. Whatever he may have said at the airport as he left, the first word seems to count for more, as the children's game goes. Yeltsin, it seems to me, has never taken an impulsive step, he always thinks things through and calculates the effect. Why do you think the president made such an unexpected move?

[Lukin] One needs to distinguish here between content and style. As regards the content, one does not need to be an Einstein to understand that replacing the foreign minister is on the agenda. [passage omitted] The problem consists in the fact that we really do need a persistent, and in some aspects a stubborn, consistent foreign policy, and a pro-Russian Federation foreign policy, at that. But just look at what happened: From the start we did not have a pro-Russian Federation policy, but a pro-western one, with a lot of bleating assent before we were even asked. [passage omitted]

The danger now is that our policy may now not become pro-Russian Federation, but anti-American and anti-western, which is not the same thing because do we have points of contact and lines of demarcation. For example, at one time, in his stupidity, Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev sent missiles to Cuba. Now we are sending Soskovets to Cuba. [Kiselev chuckles] That is considerably better. I am not against this trip, but the thing is, we have to understand very clearly exactly why we are going there and how far we have to go. Above all, we have to understand clearly that our main task is not to be in Cuba, but to make sure that the Americans are not in Belarus, in Ukraine, and in Kazakhstan in a manner unacceptable to us. That is where are main problems lie — talking to the Americans. If they really want and make it their main aim to make the former Soviet space fall apart at the seams, rather than to give us a sensible, economic, and special means of integrating, that really is a problem. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] Vladimir Petrovich, on Friday, I think it was, you said that you did not yourself aspire to the post of foreign minister and were content with your present destiny. Is that the case?

[Lukin] What do you mean, I do not aspire to the post? I have not been asked! Since I have not, it is even rather odd to discuss the matter. If somebody in our society considers that I am sufficiently mature for the post, I am very grateful to them. For the rest, it is the president's business. It is an interesting challenge, and if I am offered the challenge, then I will think about it.

[Kiselev] I have heard it said by someone pretty close to presidential circles that Lukin is good for everyone, but, because of his Yabloko bloc roots, as Mikhail Leontyev said, might not suit the president.

[Lukin] I was born in the town of Omsk, not in Yabloko. That is the president's business, it is up to him to judge. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] All right, let us end our conversation where we started, with the destiny of the present foreign minister. What sort of results are needed from Yeltsin's trip to the United States and his meeting with Clinton, in order for Kozyrev to get amnestied, as some people have put it?

[Lukin] I do not think Boris Nikolayevich's trip to the United States has any direct connection with Andrey Vladimirovich's destiny, for the simple reason that if the public deems it useful and successful, it is the president's visit. The preparation for the visit was done by several ministries and departments. If the visit is unsuccessful, then of course the poor minister will get clobbered for it.

[Kiselev] In what case will the visit be considered very successful, and in what case will it be considered a failure?

[Lukin] We have very many problems with the United States. The three specific issues over which the main battles are being fought now are: NATO, the Yugoslav crisis, and the whole package of bilateral relations, where the Americans are dragging their heels over implementing what they promised. You recall the notorious Jackson-Vannik amendment. It is still there, and nobody intends to annul it. [passage omitted]

As for the Yugoslav crisis, I think the Americans have an interest in our troops there. In the first place, the U.S. Congress is not too fond of sending troops onto foreign territory. Clinton is asking for it, but the Congress does not want to sent them. Just look what sort of Congress it is there in America, a backwoods Congress. I know these Congressmen who come from the provinces...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Backwoods in what sense?

[Lukin] Backwoods in terms of their level of knowledge. Not that I want to use the expression, but hairy as apes: I have seen these new Republican Congressmen, they cannot tell Brazil from Malaysia, they have no sense of measure at all. They are concerned about just one thing — our tax payers do not want to pay, and we will not pay a single dollar. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] You have said yourself that the Yugoslav crisis is a separate issue compared with issues of European security. For us NATO is the fundamental issue.

[Lukin] [passage omitted] The main problem is NATO. Here we must stand our ground firmly and clearly, firmly and clearly state that NATO's expansion east is totally unacceptable for Russia. It contradicts all Russian Federation principles, all Russian Federation world views on what is dangerous and what is not dangerous for Russia. This will provoke a serious response on our part. What response? Well, not a telephone call, anyway! [passage omitted]

Livshits: Yeltsin Undecided on Candidate for CBR Head

LD2010193395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1736 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin is still undecided about a candidate to act as head of the Central Bank of Russia (CBR), the presidential advisor on economic issues, Aleksandr Livshits, told a briefing in the Kremlin Friday.

According to Livshits, there are no grounds to speculate about Yeltsin's intention to propose himself for the office. "No one has spoken with me about this or offered me that so far," he added. "I am convinced and I want to believe that it will not be me," he remarked, saying he had enough work to do, which was likely to grow.

The president is well aware of the situation in the banking sector, Livshits said. "The same names are among the candidates considered by Boris Yeltsin," he added.

Lukyanov Criticizes Yeltsin's Anti-Communist Remarks

MM2310135495 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Statement by Communists in State Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A.I. Lukyanov asked to speak at yesterday morning's Duma session. He stated:

"Esteemed Deputies! The Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] and its State Duma faction could not fail to draw attention to President Yeltsin's speech to journalists 19 October this year.

"In this speech, which contained malicious attacks against Communists, Yeltsin unambiguously gave instructions to all power structures and the forces that support them to get actively involved in the electoral process.

"Answering a question about a possible communist victory in the elections, the president stated: 'We must not allow this to happen.' Thus, the state's top official, who is obliged to guard the Constitution and legality, has directly supported one of the sides in the election campaign, deliberately permitting any methods for countering opposition forces.

"Communists and the CPRF view this act by the president as a direct threat not only to the half a million Communists but also to the 2 million citizens who have supported the CPRF with their signatures.

"At the same time, the president gave a signal to all really extremist forces that they would be given a free hand in their fight against the Communists. Knowing that the electorate of the Communist Party and other patriotic forces comes to millions of working people, the president was to all intents and purposes whipping up social discord, which is prohibited by the Russian Federation Constitution and the law 'On Basic Guarantees for Citizens' Electoral Rights.' In actual fact this amounts to unconcealed incitement to civil opposition and the creation of the prerequisites for the introduction of an openly authoritarian regime in the country.

"In this connection the CPRF Central Committee and the communist faction in the State Duma reserve the right:

"First, to view any illegal action directed against Communists in the course of the election campaign as sanctioned by the Russian president.

"Second, to appeal to the Central Electoral Commission in connection with the president's blatant violation of the requirements of electoral legislation.

"Third, in accordance with the norms of civil legislation, to institute proceedings for defamation of the CPRF and the millions of voters who support it.

"A statement on this issue will be brought to the attention of State Duma deputies and the general public. After all, today these actions are directed against the Communists, but tomorrow they could be directed against any opposition or other public organization in the country.

"I particularly appeal to the representatives of the mass media here present. If you really want to appear independent and objective, bring this opinion of the Communists and this statement of ours to the attention of all listeners and viewers."

Shakhray Aware of Draft Decree on Dismissal From Post

LD2010195595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray said he knew that a draft presidential decree on his dismissal as the deputy prime minister is ready.

Shakhray said he believed that his dismissal would be due to his "exit from the Our Home is Russia movement."

"Whether this decree will be signed is another question," Shakhray told a press conference in Moscow today.

Shakhray said that in any case he would go on an unpaid vacation before December 17 in order to participate in the election campaign. He urged other Russian officials to follow his example "in order not to abuse their position."

Shakhray said he believed that the State Duma, parliament's lower chamber, "should declare a recess for itself from November 17 to December 17 in order not to use the parliament for the election campaign and not to gain an advantage over other blocs which are not represented in the State Duma."

Shakhray said deputies should meet again after such a recess on December 18 and work until the first session of the new Duma, as legislation provides for.

Shakhray said in an answer to INTERFAX's question that the Sixth State Duma might be dismissed in seven to eight months after the elections "after which early elections to it will take place."

Shakhray explained his statement by saying that if Boris Yeltsin won the presidential elections in the summer of 1996 "he will not be satisfied with too big a number of Communists and Agrarians in the parliament's lower chamber." Shakhray said that if a left-wing candidate won the elections this candidate "will not be satisfied with those State Duma deputies who are democracy's supporters."

Constitutional Court Examines Duma Appeal on Amendments

MM2010090095 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Orlov: "How To Adopt Constitutional Amendments?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday [18 October] the Russian Federation Constitutional Court began examining the State Duma appeal on Article 136 of the Russian Constitution, which lays down the procedure for the adoption of amendments to Chapters 3 and 8 of the Fundamental Law.

It states with regard to amendments that they are "adopted under the procedure laid down for the adoption of the federal constitutional law" and come into force once they have been approved by at least two-thirds of Russian Federation components.

The uncertainty which the State Duma would like to "clear up" lies in just how constitutional amendments are adopted.

Duma representative Vladimir Isakov believes that the document should have the name and legal format of the federal constitutional law "On an Amendment (Amendments) to the Russian Federation Constitution." This treatment, Isakov believes, is in line with Russian legal traditions and makes it possible to avoid any uncertainty in the legal situation.

Both Justice Boris Ebzeyev and Constitutional Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov were justifiably curious as to why the Duma had used the method of an appeal to the court. It turned out that, for a change, the legislators were showing some concern for taxpayers.

Around 20 subjects of legislative initiative have already submitted draft amendments to the Fundamental Law. And without a procedure for adopting them the process of improving legislation could be held up.

It is expected that the Constitutional Court will rule on this matter early next week.

Grachev Likely To Drop Court Case After Gusev's Apology

LD2010205395 Moscow NTV in Russian
1900 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Report by presenter Tatyana Mitkova, correspondents Aleksandr Gerasimov and Yevgeniy Turchak, with recorded remarks by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS Chief Editor Pavel Gusev — from the "Segodnya" news program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mitkova] Defense Minister Grachev was on television today. There is currently heightened interest in the person of the minister, given that on 25 October a court hearing is scheduled to take place on Grachev's suit over the article Pasha Mercedes by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS journalist Vadim Poegli. It seems the hearing may not take place. The newspaper and the minister are restoring their relations. Aleksandr Gerasimov continues the theme.

[Correspondent over video of Pavel Grachev and Pavel Gusev in television studio] This evening, it seems, there is one fewer political scandal. The man who was in effect responsible for the Defense Minister's sensational case against MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, its chief editor Pavel Gusev, has made a public apology to Pavel Grachev, live on Moscow Television.

[Gusev] The emotional turmoil within us [caused by killing of journalist Dmitriy Kholodov] erupted, how shall I put it, rather unpredictably in words by which we called the minister a thief. Only a court can determine who is a thief or a killer and who is innocent.

[Correspondent] Live on air, the two Pavels who had so recently been at loggerheads did not discuss the subject of the court hearing scheduled for 25 October. The actual hearing will probably now not take place.

[Grachev] The period of confrontation, as they say, and the period of cold war between MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS and the Defense Ministry is coming to an end. I take your words as an apology, I accept them, and I am ready for cooperation in future. [video shows Grachev and Gusev shaking hands across table]

[Correspondent] Pavel Grachev declared that after yesterday's sitting of the government, when the prime minister criticized him over the prospects for the development of Chechen events, his relations with Chernomyrdin had not deteriorated in the least. On the contrary, immediately after the sitting the prime minister had a meeting in his office with Grachev and Oleg Lobov [presidential envoy in Chechnya] and discussed with them issues relating to financing the further stationing of the federal forces in Chechnya. According to the defense minister, Chernomyrdin promised support on all points of military expenditure.

Most likely, following the foreign minister, Pavel Grachev is emerging from a bad patch in his career.

[Grachev, interviewed by NTV outside studio] Why, were there any doubts? In his interview, I reckon, Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] stated very briefly but very precisely what the president's attitude to the army was.

[Correspondent] It may be assumed that the next discussion of whether Grachev and Kozyrev should keep their ministerial seats is likely to depend directly upon the results of the parliamentary elections. Alekandr Gerasimov and Yevgeniy Turchak, NTV.

Kuntsevich Charged With Contraband of Chemical Weapons

LD2210152795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1250 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 22 (INTERFAX) — Former chairman of the Russian Committee for Conversion of Enterprises Producing Chemical and Biological Weapons Anatoliy Kuntsevich is charged with contraband of chemical substances, Chairman of the Russian Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov said.

Kuntsevich planned to run to the State Duma from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia in Tushino constituency No 200, Moscow. However, the LDPR withdrew his name from its federal list of candidates on October 17 shortly before Kuntsevich was to be registered by the Central Electoral Commission.

Ryabov told the INTERFAX and Postfaktum news agencies that Russian Federal Security Service Director Mikhail Barsukov had sent him a letter on October 20. Barsukov said Kuntsevich had illegally brought to some countries of the Middle East 800 kilograms of military toxic substances. Kuntsevich also prepared for delivery 5 tonnes of the so-called double-purpose chemical substances but failed to export them.

Earlier, Kuntsevich was one of those who accused scientist Vil Mirzoyanov of revealing state secrets when publishing articles concerning chemical weapons.

GRU Official Denies Stolen Car Contained Special Equipment

MM2010154495 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20-27 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Zaynetdinov under the "From the Life of the Special Services" rubric: "Was There a Pager?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time in the history of glasnost the General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU] — the military intelligence service — has kicked up a fuss about what appeared to be a pretty innocuous snippet in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on 13 October.

The item was about criminals in Moscow hijacking the official vehicle of Major General Mikhail Kotikov, a GRU directorate chief. It was no ordinary vehicle though. It was stuffed with all manner of fancy espionage electronics. On top of all that the forgetful general allegedly left inside the vehicle a folder of top-secret documents about confrontation between the Russian special services.

At a press conference Colonel Nikolay Boyko, assistant to the GRU chief for educational work, said that no "Volga" had been hijacked from the GRU, let alone one with any espionage electronics in it. "We don't have any vehicles of this kind anyway and people are prohibited from taking top-secret documents out of GRU offices, so there couldn't have been any in the car."

But Col. Boyko did say that an official white "series nine" car, license number 79-30 MMD, which actually was carrying Gen. Kotikov, was stolen. But this car did not contain any electronics either and it did not even have a basic radio telephone, as is the case with most of the GRU vehicles, even those carrying the senior bosses. Often, Nikolay Boyko complained, if you need to find one of the generals problems arise. Because it is so poor, the GRU does not even have any cheap pagers. In connection with this, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA expresses its sympathy and announces that it has started looking for sponsors — as regards pagers — for the GRU.

The stolen "series nine," without its license plate, smashed to pieces, and burned out, was found by the police 10 days later.

Shakhovskoy Head Calls For Union of Local Authorities

LD2010194095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1606 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Nikolay Travkin, head of the administration of the Shakhovskoy district of the Moscow region, spoke about the need of creating a Russian union of local authorities on Friday.

Travkin believes that the union should ensure constant interaction of chiefs of local administrations within the Federation, should be in touch with the government and formulate orders for law-making activity to the State Duma.

Travkin told a news conference that he is busy preparing a Russian conference of heads of administrations of the Federation's subjects with chairman of the Russian government, planned for November 3. Each subject of the Federation should be represented at the conference by two head of administration, one from an agricultural region, the other from an urban region. One of the results of the conference should be the setting up of a union of local authorities, a public, non-political organisation.

"Local self-government should not be affected by storms in the upper quarters," Travkin said. He believes that it is precisely local self-government bodies that should ensure "tranquility and stability in the country." The recently passed law on local self-government gave all the necessary powers to municipal and district authorities. It is necessary to implement this law, drawing on the experience of the regions with the best performance.

Shumeyko, Others Sue Deputy Ilyukhin for Slander

MM1810154295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Maks Khazin under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "V. Ilyukhin Will Be a Defendant in Court"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everyone remembers the celebrated "exposes" by Duma Deputy Viktor Ilyukhin in connection with the capture and arrest of V. Solovyeva, mistress of "Vlastilina." Let us recall that the former prosecutor accused V. Shumeyko and his wife of "laundering money" ["krutit dengi"] in this swindling firm and making a lot of money out of it.

Shumeyko reckoned that what was said ranked him among the corrupt, blackened his honor and dignity, and discredited him as one of the state's top officials. A corresponding suit has now been prepared, and V. Ilyukhin will have to prove his accusations in court as the defendant. Unless the parliamentarian takes advantage of a bad example and evades a court appearance, he will become a frequent guest there. This is because similar suits have been prepared by senior officials of the Moscow Oblast Internal Affairs Main Administration — N. Chekmazov, chief of the Criminal Investigation Administration, and A. Voronin, chief of the Investigative Administration: Ilyukhin also accused them (allegedly on the basis of what Solovyeva said) of receiving a billion-ruble income.

In court the defendant will have to refute not only the plaintiffs' arguments, but also the investigation's official position. This is it: "Such statements (see above — M.Kh.) did not come from V.I. Solovyeva, the accused in criminal case No. 47265, and she made no such testimony. State Duma Committee Chairman V. Ilyukhin has nothing to do with the investigation of the aforementioned criminal case, was not permitted to communicate with V.I. Solovyeva, and did not name the source of the 'information' which he made public. [Signed] "Justice Lieutenant Colonel V.V. Vitkovskiy, deputy chief of the Administration for Investigating Organized Criminal Activity."

We will report the results of these judicial processes.

Military Issues

Grachev Dismisses Tiraspol Commander

LD2110135095 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1312 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mikhail Bergman, military commandant of the Tiraspol garrison of the operations group of Russian Federation forces in the Dniester region, told Moscow Echo radio station that yesterday he received a verbal order to leave his post within three days.

Bergman said he was told of his dismissal by Major-General Chuprakov, chief of staff of the operations group, who summoned him on 20 October and told him that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev gave him the order over the telephone.

Bergman emphasized that although he has not received a written order, when he returned to the commandant's office he found assault troops from the 59th Motorized Rifle Division there. "I have never seen anything like it in my 23 years in the army. It is unheard of," Bergman said. "I did not think I would live to see such a thing."

"I am obliged to carry out the order. I have the right to appeal, but I don't know where. The defense minister has been sued by all and sundry recently, but to no purpose. So it seems I shall just have to reconcile myself to the fact that I live in an unlawful society," Bergman declared.

In Bergman's view, "this is being done to make sure that everybody who worked with Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed takes some sort of punishment."

Rybkin Comments on Budget, Defense Funding Needs

MM1810141395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Yermolin: "Ivan Rybkin in Favor of Increasing Defense Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The press center of the Central House of the Journalist has organized a meeting with Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma. The parliamentary speaker spoke first and foremost about the State Duma Council decisions adopted last Monday. Notably, henceforth the Duma will only examine the draft laws that have already passed their first reading. An exception has been made for draft laws aimed at the "social protection of people of labor."

I hope that the parliamentarians will categorize servicemen among the latter. I know that the portfolio of the subcommittee involved in social questions of the Army and Navy contains drafts of long-overdue laws. Unfortunately, for reasons that are unclear, their progress through the Duma has been extremely slow. For example, the pension law has clearly "become overripe," lying at the bottom of the aforementioned portfolio. Let us hope that now that the top-priority nature of socially significant draft laws has been declared, the deputies working on the subcommittee will display greater perseverance — judging by Ivan Rybkin's words, we have been assured of the "green light."

Incidentally, the State Duma chairman believes that the "Army cannot stay outside politics." The active participation in the election campaign of candidates in uniform is extra confirmation of this. He views with understanding the desire of the defense department to have people inside the Duma who are capable of making professional judgments as regards the problems of defense and displaying appropriate concern in legislative terms for it. But, Rybkin stressed, everything should be done within the framework of the law and the Constitution, which in fact, as far as I am aware, no serviceman objects to. We should also adhere to the hope expressed by the speaker that "our officers and generals are law abiding and intelligent enough not to get involved in dubious structures." He evidently had certain electoral associations in mind here. Which ones, Ivan Petrovich did not specify.

The following was also said about the Army: The needs of the Armed Forces should be calculated on the basis of the principle of "guaranteed sufficiency" rather than "reasonable sufficiency." To put it more simply, defense should be at a level which guarantees national security. I would add on my own behalf that, judging by the draft budget for next year prepared by the Russian Federation Government, our statesmen do not need any defense at all — neither guaranteed nor reasonable. As for the prospects of the adoption of the law on the 1996 Federal Budget, Rybkin is convinced that it will even be adopted by the present composition of the Duma.

Only a few words were said about campaign matters. Rybkin's bloc has gathered an obviously extravagant 600,000 signatures. On Tuesday they were supposed to present 300,000 to the Central Electoral Commission. And yet the chairman of the State Duma believes that the present Duma members have a better chance in the fight for a seat in the new parliament Apparently because they are in full view of everyone and so forth. Maybe that is the case. But maybe this circumstance will actually push the candidate deputies into the background of electoral sympathies and trust.

Duma Official Interviewed on Defense Industry Debts

LD2110105895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0700 GMT on 21 October 95 broadcasts in its "The Week in Parliament" program a three-minute interview with A. Piskunov, deputy chairman of the State Duma defense committee, by an unidentified correspondent.

When asked about financial prospects for the defense industry in 1996, Piskunov replies: "The mass media has been extensively covering the budget hearings. The financing of the country's defense is one of the most difficult issues. It suffices to say that this year's debts will exceed quarterly allocations. Debts to the defense industry are expected to reach some 16-17 trillion rubles by the end of this year, and you must take into account that the money for food and maintaining the social infrastructure of military settlements has already been spent. By 1 September we had financed the defense industry to about 14 percent of budget, not counting debts."

Asked whether one could say that the defense industry has eaten up all the money, Piskunov says: "One could say that there is a big imbalance between expenditures for maintaining the armed forces and expenditures for equipping the armed forces. The country is trying to feed some 4 million people in various power structures — about 1.5 million in the armed forces, and all the rest in so-called "other" troops. The defense industry and military science get what is left over. So we are in danger of being left with 4 million people armed with sticks. That is not the army the country needs."

Zherebtsov Clarifies Law Concerning Student Draftees

LD2110085995 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New rules for a call-up to the armed forces raised quite a few questions, including one about student draftees. Colonel-General Vyacheslav Vladimirovich Zherebtsov, chief of the General Staff's main organization and mobilization department, answers this question as follows:

[Begin Zherebtsov recording] Students will not be called up for service. In addition, people doing post-graduate studies will not be called up either, that is, if it is a promising post-graduate etc. Such people will not be called up for service. Draftees with university degrees will serve for 12 months. If this person graduated from a university which has a military faculty, then after graduation this person has the right to choose what kind of military service he would prefer. During his service time of 12 months he will be a sergeant, but when transferred to the reserve, he will be given the rank of a lieutenant in reserve. As an alternative to this, this person can have the rank of an officer while serving in the army, but in this case he will have to serve for two years. This is sorted out at the time when the person is called up by the commission. If he wants to be an officer, then he will be an officer — not for 12 months but for 24 months, and when he is transferred to the reserve, he becomes a senior lieutenant in reserve. [end recording]

Kokoshin Chairs Conference on Military Repairs

MM1910120195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 1

["Own information" report under the "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and News Agency Correspondents report" rubric: "Problems of Military Hardware Repairs Discussed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation Ministry of Defense — Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy minister of defense, has held a conference of leading staffers of the Defense Ministry, the General Staff, and the high commands of the branches of the Armed Forces on problems of repairing arms and military hardware, organizing work, and funding Defense Ministry repair enterprises.

The conference participants pointed out that, owing to the overall shortage of funds allocated to maintaining the Armed Forces, hardware repairs are financed on the leftover principle. In particular, Admiral Valeriy Grishanov, deputy commander in chief of the Navy, emphasized that a particularly complex situation has taken shape at a number of the Navy's ship repair enterprises. Because of insufficient appropriations, the plans outlined by the Ministry of Defense for amalgamating [kompleksirovaniye] repair enterprises and optimizing their structure and composition are being implemented considerably more slowly than the Armed Forces' requirements demand. Duplication in the work of many repair enterprises has still not been eliminated. The resolution of repair tasks is far from always linked in with work to fulfill the state defense order. The questions of how to get through the winter and how to ensure the payment of wages, particularly to working people of the Defense Ministry's economically accountable enterprises, are very acute.

Decisions on immediate support for a group of Defense Ministry repair enterprises which are in the most difficult position were adopted on the results of the conference. A request is being sent to the government to increase the appropriations allocated to the Ministry of Defense for repairs, so as to ensure that they are taken into account when elaborating the budget for 1995 [year as published], as well as proposals on a package of measures which should be taken to provide these enterprises with fuel, electricity, and heat.

Federal Assembly

Duma Passes Law on Use of Nuclear Energy

LD2010153795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 20 (ITAR-TASS) — The State Duma on Friday passed repeatedly the federal law "On the use of nuclear energy" that had earlier been turned down by the Russian President. The Duma has taken into account the President's remarks and suggestions.

The document, specifically, includes supplements that the law does not apply to the activity connected with the designing, manufacture, testing, use and utilisation of nuclear arms and military-purpose nuclear energy installations as this activity is treated in the law "On nuclear arms" which is being drafted.

Deputies Ask Court To Review Kalmykia Election Law

LD2010214295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — A total of 93 State Duma deputies Friday sent a collective request to the Russian Constitutional Court to review the constitutionality of the law on presidential elections in Kalmykia.

The parliament of Kalmykia, a Russian republic, adopted the law on August 15, State Duma deputy from Kalmykia Bembya Khulkhachiyev (the Stability deputy group) told INTERFAX. Khulkhachiyev was among those deputies of parliament's lower chamber who signed the request.

Early presidential elections took place in Kalmykia on October 15 on the basis of this law. Present Kalmyk president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, running without opposition, was re-elected for another seven-year presidential term.

Kalmykia held its first presidential elections in 1993.

Khulkhachiyev said the authors of the request had renounced their initial intention to raise this issue at the State Duma's session for the State Duma to adopt an appeal to the Constitutional Court. "After analyzing the situation, we realized that we could not find support with the majority of deputies. At least two factions: these of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and the Agrarian Party, would probably oppose the idea of the State Duma applying to the Constitutional Court," he said.

Khulkhachiyev explained his belief by saying that a member of the Agrarian Party faction, Gennady Kulik, plans to run from Kalmykia to the State Duma in the December 17 elections. Khulkhachiyev added that LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky had sent Ilyumzhinov a telegram congratulating him on his election and likening him to "a dove of peace."

Duma Presses for Integration Program With Belarus

LD2010140395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — The State Duma has recommended the president submit a program for the integration of Russia and Belarus to the Federal Assembly.

A resolution passed Friday also suggests that Boris Yeltsin form an official delegation to talks with Belarus on legislative foundations and control over integration as well as concrete forms of rapprochement of the two countries.

After the formation of the integration program a decision should be taken on a public vote on relations with Belarus.

During the debate Chairman of the Duma Committee for CIS Affairs Konstantin Zatulin (Democrat) said "the president and government have sufficient powers to plan integration moves without any referendum".

The Duma also ratified the agreement on the customs union of the two countries and the bilateral protocol on free trade.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Georgiy Gabuniya who presented the customs agreement reminded deputies that enforcement of the agreement implies the interaction of the two countries with the rest of the world on common terms.

The Duma ratified the CIS covenant on human rights, the friendship and cooperation treaty with Portugal and a consular agreement with Latvia.

Chairman Rybkin Urges Duma To Confirm Ministers

MM2010142995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Duma Wants To Make President's Life 'Easier'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian president would "find things easier if the State Duma confirmed not only the prime minister but also the vice premier and the power ministers." This was stated at a Moscow press conference by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. "Both the executive and the legislature should have more rights so as to ensure that more people can take responsibility for what is happening in the country," I. Rybkin stressed. According to the speaker, the State Duma Committee for Legislation has already "built up a data base on changes to the picture of the authorities' powers" proposed by various structures, including Federation components.

Duma Approves Law on Crimes in Public Office

MK2110064195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Imprisonment Is Suggested for Those To Blame for Budget Deficit. State Duma Approves a Legislative Answer to the Question 'Who Is To Blame?'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The members of the Cabinet of Ministers battling for next year's budget ought to examine what they have done for the implementation of this year's main financial law and, possibly, to be concerned about their own fate. Yesterday the State Duma passed the law "On Adopting Amendments and Addenda to the RSFSR Criminal Code (On the Responsibility of Officials for Violation of Laws in the Economic Sphere)" on its first reading. Under the law, it is possible to land in prison for budget-related reasons. The law, which was submitted to the deputies by Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the Committee for Economic Policy, envisions fairly severe penalties for officials who by their decisions and actions violate laws on the federal budget, customs duties, privatization, foreign investment, and taxes. Thus, an official granting unlawful customs privileges, understating the cost of capital assets when privatizing a piece of state or municipal property, or according tax advantages, will either be fined or incarcerated. The same penalty awaits an official whose actions lead to noncompliance with the main budget parameters, the budget expense structure, the maximum amount of the deficit or external borrowing, etc.

The penalty will depend on the consequences resulting from "the violation of the rights and legal interests of citizens, legal entities, or the state." The least guilty will be fined from 100 to 200 minimum [official monthly] wages or will deprived of the right to occupy "certain positions" for a period of up to five years; will be placed under arrest for 4-6 months; or will be put into prison for a period of up to two years. Inveterate violators will be fined from 500 to 1,000 minimum wages or will end up behind bars for up to five years.

According to Sergey Glazyev, the law must at long last define who is to blame for the damage done to the country, its commodity producers, and other people. Mr. Glazyev claimed that without such a law, it is impossible to bring order to the management of finance and property. The deputies, to whom one of the eternal Russian questions — "Who is to blame?" — obviously appealed, voiced their support for Sergey Glazyev's urge to bring order to the country by passing a law fearsome to bureaucrats despite negative resolutions on its draft version by both the State Duma Legal Directorate and the Russian Federation Supreme Court.

Duma Discusses Education, Election Broadcasts

LD2110090995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1643 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The State Duma approved the first reading of the federal law "On military equipment cooperation between the Russian Federation and foreign countries." The document entrenches the state monopoly on conducting such cooperation. This is stated in a report from the Russian Federation State Duma press service which was sent to ITAR-TASS today.

The deputies supported the concept of the draft federal law "On participation in international information exchange," which will help to create a legal basis to regulate such exchanges within the framework of sociopolitical and socioeconomic realities obtaining in the country.

The State Duma heard an address from Stanislav Korolev, Russia's deputy finance minister, on the expenditure of budget funding on the sphere of higher education and a number of sectors of the national economy. He admitted that "there have been cases of ineffective and misdirected use of budget allocations" and also the fact that the ministry has debts of 440 billion rubles for the payment of wages. He said that 83 percent of the funds allocated in the 1995 budget for higher education has been used; almost all the money envisioned for sports and mass cultural work and organizing leisure has been used. The articles of the budget which have not been fulfilled, he continued, "are the unprotected articles of the budget which include the sphere of communal services."

Replying to questions from deputies, S. Korolev promised to pay the debts of higher educational establishments for communal services in the first ten days of December this year and said that the Finance Ministry "is taking measures to pay off other debts."

The deputies criticized the mass media for their lack of objectivity in covering the chamber's activities. In turn, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin informed his colleagues that in the preelection period the leaders of all Duma groupings will be given the opportunity of speaking for eight minutes live on television.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Military, Negotiations, Politics

Grachev, Premier Agree on Chechnya

LD2110103395 Moscow NTV in Russian
2100 GMT 20 Oct 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Defense Minister Pavel Grachev,] The hero of sensational legal proceedings which prolonged tension between the defense minister and journalists from MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, visited the Ostankino TV center today. Pavel Grachev shook hands with Pavel Gusev, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, and in many ways secured a happy outcome to the conflict. His argument with the prime minister over exaggerating the military department's demands to continue the Chechen campaign will obviously have a similar outcome, too. The conflict between the defense minister and the head of the government was settled right after the end of the government meeting. [video shows Grachev speaking in a room]

[Begin Grachev recording] The question was raised of whether this campaign will be financed additionally by the state. And a second question: I informed members of the government and those invited that the situation in Chechnya was not entirely optimistic and that I was therefore concerned that the possibility should not be ruled out of carrying out military actions — in parallel with the peace talks — to destroy the bandit formations which are not implementing the peace agreement.

Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] did not object to this but made it clear that the priority really is the process of peace talks, which, I repeat, I in no way deny, and that we must not and have a duty not to allow military actions again on a large scale.

After this conversation relations were as before, businesslike, normal. Moreover, at 1600 that day Viktor Stepanovich invited us, myself, Oleg Ivanovich Lobov [presidential representative in Chechnya], the chairman of the Federal Security Service [Mikhail Barsukov], and the interior minister in his cabinet [Anatoliy Kulikov] and there we examined the issue of financing all the federal troops in Chechnya. [end recording]

Lobov Agrees With Grachev on Renewed Action

LD2110185095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1656 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 21 (INTERFAX) — Presidential envoy to Chechnya, Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov said he agreed with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who said that military actions in Chechnya might be renewed if the July 30 military agreement was not implemented.

Lobov told a press conference in Groznyy today: "One thing is to stand up for war and another thing is to warn against war."

Lobov said he saw positive points in the statement on settlement in Chechnya made by Grachev last Thursday.

Grachev said at a session of the Russian government that "active military actions are starting in Chechnya as a result of peace talks."

With regard to the terrorist acts launched in Groznyy against General Anatoliy Romanov, who was seriously wounded on October 6, the OSCE mission and Lobov himself, Lobov urged the Dudayev side to name the organizers of these terrorist acts instead of "making guesses about for whom this was beneficial."

Lobov said he was in favor of finding a new venue for meetings of the Special Observer Commission (which monitors the military agreement's implementation) "so that none of the sides could be suspected of participation in organizing terrorist acts."

With regard to threats by several Chechen field commanders to launch new serious terrorist acts in Russia, Lobov said: "I would advise those who see the tragedy in Budennovsk as just a walk to go and see the doctor."

With regard to the events in Roshni-Chu, Lobov confirmed that the federal authorities were interested in investigating the bombardment of Roshni-Chu and other populated areas.

However, Lobov quoted the head of the Urus-Martan region's administration as saying that Dudayev's supporters had two times expelled representatives of the Russian Main Military Prosecutor's Office from the region when they tried to visit Roshni-Chu.

Grachev Claims Militants Amassing Weapons

LD2010221095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1935 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — Chechen illegal armed formations currently number about 6,000 people, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said on the Moscow TV channel tonight.

He said the number included 350 mercenaries from the "distant abroad."

Grachev said the Defense Ministry had recently received information proving that mercenaries from the CIS countries were coming to Chechnya. He said Chechen militants were continuing to accumulate arms and military equipment. Grachev said this gave reason to believe that the "irreconcilable" were preparing for launching wide-scale military actions.

Grachev said he supported peace talks between representatives of the Dudayev side and the federal authorities. However, he said he favored the use of military force against those continuing to fire on federal troops in Chechnya.

With regard to the situation in the Transdnestr region of Moldova, Grachev said former commander of the 14th Army based there, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed had "created a negative situation" in the region. Grachev said military officials and the Russian Prosecutor General's Office were currently investigating this negative aftermath.

Grachev said an operating group of troops led by Lieutenant General Valeriy Yevnevich had been created on the basis of the 14th Army. The group is mainly made up of a "strong and nearly fully equipped division," he said.

Grachev said the Defense Ministry's leadership intended to propose to the Russian Government and parliament in the near future that the division be vested with peacekeeping functions.

If such a decision is made, the two peacekeeping battalions brought to the Trans-Dniester region from Russia's Privolzhye and Leningrad military districts will be returned to the areas of their permanent deployment, Grachev said.

Less Attacks After 'Fire Back' Order

LD2310093995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0854 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 23 (ITAR-TASS) — The number of Chechen attacks on Russian positions has decreased after the federal troops received an order to fire back in case of any armed provocations.

A spokesman of the Russian command in Chechnya told TASS Monday that the number of attacks went down to 20, including 11 in Groznyy, over the past 24 hours and one serviceman was wounded. Fire on Russian positions was especially intense near the settlement of Bamut, he added.

The spokesman admitted that the response fire can cause casualties among civilians because the Chechen militants are deploying their strongholds close to residential houses. "No matter how hard the Russian servicemen try, they cannot avoid detriment to civilian population in such cases", he said.

At the same time an Interior officer in Chechnya told TASS that the number of Russian "losses immediately went down" after the military were o'kayed to open return fire to each shot.

"Several permanent strongholds of the militants were suppressed", the officer said speaking on conditions that he was not named.

The spokesman of the federal command also said that two unknown people mined a gas pipeline in the Chechen capital, however, the explosive device was found and rendered harmeless. The terrorists fled, he said.

Russian Commander on Roshni-Chu Shelling

LD2110183395 Moscow NTV in Russian
1600 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Report over video by unidentified correspondent; passages within quotation marks are recorded; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Tatyana Mitkova] The main news from Chechnya today is the tragedy in the village of Roshni-Chu, where a direct hit from a tank shell destroyed a house occupied by a large family of Chechens. Our special correspondents report from the scene.

[Correspondent, over video of ruined house, bodies, villagers] Investigators from the Military Prosecutor's Office, who arrived in the village of Roshni Chu to elucidate the circumstances of the recent bombing, unexpectedly came upon a fresh tragedy today. At about 2100 yesterday evening three inhabitants of the village were killed when an artillery shell exploded. Two others are now in hospital with severe injuries. The shell, probably fired from a tank gun, hit the kitchen of the house. A Chechen family was there at the time. A man and two children were killed.

[Villager, interviewed in crowd outside ruined house, noise of helicopters overhead] "The woman has lost her legs, she is in hospital now. She was wounded at 2100 yesterday evening, her legs were ripped off, and she was only admitted into the hospital at 0700 this morning."

[Correspondent] The villagers in Roshni-Chu assert that there were no fighters in the village. The Russian military give a different picture of what happened.

[Aleksey Polozov, deputy commander of Operational Reconnaissance Group, identified by caption] "Somewhere around 2100, scouts reported that vehicles carrying fighters and an armored vehicle had appeared on the outskirts of the village. Given that there were civilians alongside these vehicles, that there was housing there, it was decided that means such as artillery, cannon, and rocket artillery should not be used. The decision was made to use direct tank fire. When the vehicles with fighters on board appeared, a shot was fired on the outskirts of the village. As for who was actually there, we can only guess that they were the formations that have recently been stepping up their activities."

[Correspondent] Representatives of the federal command and of Dzhokhar Dudayev taking part in the work of the joint observer commission went out to the site. An investigation into the incident will be carried out. This is the second strike against Roshni-Chu in the last two weeks. A rally gathered round the checkpoint at the entrance to the village today.

It is not yet clear what impact this incident will have on the continuation of the Russian-Chechen dialogue. The only thing that is clear is that as yet the accusations each side is making against the other are the same as before.

[Lobov, addressing news conference] "I think that since we came to a conclusion and signed an agreement to the effect that all issues should be decided at the negotiating table, that is the way we should proceed."

[Correspondent] Nationalities Affairs Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, head of the Russian government delegation, however, was not inclined to link his arrival in Groznyy with the resumption of peace talks. For his part, Oleg Lobov does not think there is any disagreement in the Russian Government over how to resolve the Chechen crisis. From his point of view, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's tough statements are not at variance with the strategic policy of settling the conflict peacefully.

[Lobov] "Grachev has repeatedly said he is in favor of a peaceful solution of the conflict. However, he warns that if events continue to develop as they have done over the last week, we could come to a resumption of military action. These are somewhat different things — to advocate war, and to warn that war is possible. If one looks at it from that point of view, one can find something useful in his statement."

[Mitkova] Another of our special correspondents, Arkadiy Mamontov, has just told us over the telephone that it is now impossible to drive up to Roshni-Chu. Even press accreditations and the signature of Anatoliy Shkirko, the commander of the temporary joint group of Russian Federation forces in Chechnya, do not work. One needs permission directly from the checkpoint commander. The NTV television crew seems to have been the only one that managed to get into Roshni-Chu. At present the village is entirely sealed off, Arkadiy Mamontov reports. According to servicemen at the checkpoints, around Roshni-Chu, all approaches to the village have been mined.

Chechen Call for Renewal of Talks

LD2110184995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1656 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 21 (INTERFAX) — Those at the round-table conference of Chechen political parties and movements which met in Groznyy today, said they were concerned about the suspension of talks on peace settlement in Chechnya.

The round-table conference called for renewing peace talks between representatives of the federal authorities and the Dudayev side.

The round-table conference slammed the statement made by the alternative consultative conference of political parties and public-and-political movements "of the Chechen Republic Ichkeria." The Conference of the Chechen Republic Ichkeria in particular said: "The Russian ruling circles have organized, using the puppet government of Khadzhiyev and Avturkhanov, a pro-Russian roundtable of Chechen political parties and movements in order to legalize Russian domination."

"All participants in the round-table conference unanimously condemned this statement," said Dhzabrail Gakayev, a member of the Chechen National Accord Committee led by Umar Avturkhanov. Gakayev told INTERFAX that the Conference of the Chechen Republic Ichkeria had been created in order to provoke "a split within the roundtable of Chechen political parties and movement which is gaining political weight."

The roundtable did not approve the idea of calling a nation-wide reconciliatory congress in Chechnya advanced by some parties and movements. "The parties and movements sympathizing with the Dudayev side tried to impose their vision of the problem of sovereignty but the majority of parties and movements did not accept their interpretation of it," Gakayev said.

"The Dudayev side needs sovereignty to use it as a tool in the struggle for power," Gakayev said.

New Personalities Seen at Peace Talks

LD2110131095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1234 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 21 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Vladimir Zorin and Sergey Shapovalov were introduced as deputy chairmen of the Russian delegation at the Chechen peace talks. The Chechen side decided to involve in the talks those field commanders who are not subordinate to Dudayev, Russian presidential envoy Oleg Lobov told a news conference in Groznyy today. "To do everything possible to reach a peaceful settlement to the Chechen conflict" is the main task set for him by Boris Yeltsin at a meeting in Moscow, he said.

Touching on the problems of restoring the republic's economy Oleg Lobov said that in 1996 all work must in general be completed as far as the provision of normal living conditions for the population is concerned. To achieve this, shortcomings in funding should first be tackled. The country has sufficient resources for that, Oleg Lobov said.

Mikhaylov Denies Firing Deputy Volskiy

LD2110184095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 21 (INTERFAX) — The leader of the Russian delegation at peace talks with Chechnya's separatists, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, on Saturday [21 October] denied rumors that Arkadiy Volskiy had been dismissed as his deputy.

Mikhaylov, the nationalities minister, told a news conference in the Chechen capital Groznyy the only reason why Volskiy had not come for the next round of negotiations was that he was ill and had "a high temperature."

Mikhaylov said two more members had been included in the Russian negotiating team: Sergey Shapovalov, a member of the Russian parliament, and Vladimir Zorin, first deputy head of the Russian civilian administration in Chechnya, who became deputy head of the delegation.

Mikhaylov said negotiations might resume next Tuesday.

POW's Not Exchanged for Chechens

LD2110084695 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attempt on Friday to free 14 Russian POW's held in Chechnya in the village of Chiri-Yurt ended in failure. The attempt was made by a group of soldiers' mothers who arrived in the village and whose sons are missing. The Russian side offered 145 Chechens in exchange. The work of the special supervisory commission has been suspended. The exchange of POW's was carried out in the framework of this commission.

Khasbulatov Does Not Want Khadzhiyev's Job

LD2210182895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Salambek Khadzhiyev, head of the pro-Russian Chechen government, confirmed today that he was going to resign, but pointed out that he has not yet officially submitted his resignation. Khadzhiyev told a group of journalists today that he considers Doku Zavgayev and Ruslan Khasbulatov to be the most realistic candidates for the prime minister's post.

Judging by latest interviews, Zavgayev does not hide his desire to return to a leadership position in the republic. As for Khasbulatov, he views such prospects without great enthusiasm.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] No, this is all together impossible. There should be some unity, some national accord. Obviously it will be better to create some sort of an alliance with all the conflicting sides, and to put forward a candidate that will be acceptable to all the sides. This is such a delicate and exceptionally important matter that Dudayev's side, or the negotiating side, as it is called, that is the side the Russian Federation is negotiating with, must absolutely be included in the discussion of this matter. Otherwise it will be the continuation of the war through different means. [end recording]

Chechen Leader Repeats Offer to Zavgayev

LD2210145995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 22 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, October 22 (ITAR-TASS) — Salambek Khadzhiyev, head of the National Revival Government of the Chechen Republic, has not handed in his resignation and does not plan to step down. "Rumours about my resignation, which have appeared in some mass media, are untrue, and I have not handed in my resignation," Khadzhiyev told ITAR-TASS today. The premier added that he had offered Doku Zavgayev or Ruslan Khazbulatov last April to head the Chechen government. "I believed that Zavgayev or Khazbulatov, who possess a wealth of professional and purely human experience, could continue the cause of the republic's revival," Khadzhiyev added.

"My offer remains in force if one of them chooses to give me an answer," the premier said. "As to the responsible post offered me in the Russian government, I must frankly say that I have, indeed, received such offers, some of which were made quite recently," he stated.

"I think that all this idle talks about me is linked with Zavgayev's intention to return to the Chechen Republic," Khadzhiyev surmised. However, "Zavgayev has still not given his consent: It seems that he is inwardly preparing himself for such a step".

If Zavgayev returns to Chechnya, "I will be only glad to see him here and I shall help him in every possible way", the Head of the National Revival Government stressed.

Zavgayev Favors Parliamentary Power

LD2210171595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 22 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the Chechen Supreme Soviet Doku Zavgayev is the person capable of consolidating the Chechen people, leader of the Communist Party of Chechnya Ruslan Murtayev told INTERFAX.

The Communist Party of Chechnya includes about 2,000 members.

Murtayev said he was in favor of immediately transferring the legitimate authority in the Caucasian republic to the Chechen Supreme Soviet (parliament).

He said he believed that the Chechen parliament could launch "the consolidation of the Chechen people and lay in the legislative basis for holding elections in Chechnya in 1996."

Murtayev said: "The introduction of the state of emergency in Chechnya will deprive many Chechen residents of their rights and liberties."

The Communist Party of Chechnya has created its first regional branch in the Nadterechnyy region of the republic. The Communist Party of Chechnya plans to call a congress in November. The congress will involve Doku Zavgayev.

The Communist Party of Chechnya is not part of the Communist Party of Russia led by Gennadiy Zyuganov. However, Murtayev said the Communist Party of Chechnya anticipated close cooperation with the Communist Party of Russia.

Stavropol Law Enforcement Bodies Change Leaders

LD2210113595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1115 GMT 22 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Styzhkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] STAVROPOL, October 22 (ITAR-TASS) — The reshuffle of Stavropol territorial law enforcement bodies, carried out on the basis of the results of the Budennovsk tragedy investigation, is over. The local mass media report that Colonel Boris Melnikov was appointed to the post of Chief of the Stavropol Territorial Section of the Federal Security Service. He previously held the post of First Assistant of the Sverdlovsk Regional Section of the Federal Security Service. Before Melnikov's new appointment, this post was held by Major-General Oleg Romanov.

Colonel Mikhail Shepilov was appointed to the post of Head of the Territorial Interior Department three months before that. He commanded a Russian Interior Ministry's brigade, deployed in Pyatigorsk, prior to this appointment.

ITAR-TASS has learned that the Levokumsk district court of Stavropol Territory has ordered an additional investigation of the case of six militiamen from a checkpost in the town of Neftekumsk, which is near Budennovsk. The investigation team from the Procurator-General's Office, which looked into the reasons and circumstances of the Budennovsk tragedy, accuses them of service negligence, which allowed Shamil Basayev's gang to move deep into Stavropol Territory without being stopped anywhere.

Basayev's gang of terrorists raided Budennovsk, a town with a population of 100,000, last June, shooting dozens of civilians in the streets and capturing as hostages the personnel and patients of the local hospital. More than one hundred people were killed during the tragedy.

President Boris Yeltsin told a meeting of the Russian Security Council at the end of June that "the world community had never seen such a large-scale terroristic action", which has inflicted "serious moral and political damage" on the country. Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, Chief of the Federal Security Service Sergey Stepashin, and Vice-Premier Nikolay Yegorov were relieved of their duties by Presidential Decree after the Budennovsk tragedy. They "voluntarily" handed in their resignations to the president. Governor of Stavropol Territory Yevgeniy Kuznetsov was also dismissed.

Chernomyrdin Visits Dubna Nuclear Research Center

LD2310121495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 23 (ITAR-TASS) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today is paying a one-day visit to Dubna, the home of a major nuclear research institute, a source in the Cabinet staff told ITAR-TASS.

The premier is due to meet researchers and city administrators for a discussion of the centre's problems and infrastructure ahead of the signing of an agreement on mutual obligations between the federal government and the nuclear research institute.

Last Thursday, the Government was told that no serious changes for the better had occurred in the funding of fundamental research projects in the country in 1995. Up to date the federal budget has disimbursed only 50 percent of the money earmarked for the purpose. The insufficient funding of research-and-development projects has led to social tension in the cities which thrive on scientific research and services.

The number of people employed in the sector has dwindled by 29 percent as against 11 percent in the national economy as a whole, sources in the Ministry of economics told ITAR-TASS.

If the trend persists, by the end of 1995, some 1.18 million people in the scientific research sector will have become unemployed, Ministry sources said.

Low wages and the worsening of the material and instrument base of research are understood to be among the main reasons for this sad state of affairs. According to the Ministry, in July, the average monthly pay to a researcher was 378,000 roubles (84 dollars), or 32.1 percent less than the national average and 55.6 percent less than the average industrial wage.

The Russian premier is determined to look into the state of affairs, beginning with Dubna, the sources in the government told TASS. Chernomyrdin has already given some orders to step up funding of research projects from this year's budget, the source said.

Tatar President Condemns Islamic School Seizure

LD2210171995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, Oct 22 (INTERFAX) — President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev said he considered the seizure by students of Moslem schools of the former Islamic school in the center of Kazan as "display of extremism."

Shaymiyev told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that he saw it as inadmissible to resolve problems by such methods. He condemned the actions of Tatarstan's Supreme Mufti Gabdulla Galiulla who directed the seizure.

"Such actions by religious leaders are based only on personal ambitions and throw a shadow on Islam making it look like an enemy," Shaimiyev said. "This is even more inadmissible given the cautious attitude towards the revival of Islam in Russia," he said.

Shaymiyev said he believed that Galiulla was "speculating on the sacred feelings of believers." He said: "The issue of the return of religious buildings to religious confessions has been resolved in Tatarstan."

The former Islamic school in Kazan was seized on October 16. Students of religious schools and religious leaders left the building in the late hours of October 21.

Shaymiyev said the Tatar cabinet of ministers had decided on Saturday to return the premises of the former Islamic school to the legal successor to this school.

"Law enforcement organs will assess the actions launched by pickets which can be described as misappropriation of property," Shaymiyev said.

An investment fund is currently situated in the building of the former Islamic school.

Kuzbass: Chubays Visits, Strikes Still Threaten

MM2310101995 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Kotlyarov: "Over to You, 'Mr. Voucher'!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kemerovo — Russian First Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays and members of the interdepartmental commission headed by him have arrived in Kemerovo. They familiarized themselves with the state of the social sphere in the mining cities of Prokopyevsk and Kiselevsk, and the progress of work in developing the promising Sokolovsko-Yerunakovskoye coal field. They then visited a major defense enterprise in the north of the oblast — the Yurga Machinery Plant, which is currently putting mechanized mine stoping complexes into production.

A. Chubays will be chairing an enlarged conference with the leaders of industrial enterprises on the problems of defaulting, and then the interdepartmental commission will examine the socioeconomic problems of the coal mining regions. The Kuzbass people have drawn up their own proposals on these issues, including drafts of two presidential edicts. A meeting between the first vice premier and the oblast trade union aktiv is also planned.

Meanwhile, following the large-scale protest action against government economic policy that was held 12 October, social tension remains high in the Kuzbass, and not just at coal enterprises. Teaching collectives have been on the verge of a strike since May, even though teachers' salaries have basically been paid out in most cities and rayons over the past few days. But there is no guarantee that the situation will not repeat itself in a month or two.

On the eve of A. Chubays' visit workers at the sanitary and epidemiological service announced that they were on the verge of a strike. They have received no pay since June and no child benefits for even longer.

Tambov City To Revive City Soviet

LD2210172295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 22 Oct 95

[By Aleksandr Russkiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tambov, October 22 (ITAR-TASS) — Members of the City Duma have decided to revive the City Soviet in Tambov, a city in the centre of European Russia with a population of 300,000. They have drawn up a draft charter, which stipulates the replacement of the existing Municipal Council by a City Executive Committee, and the Duma — by a City Soviet. They corroborated their plans by hoisting a red flag of the former Soviet Union over the Duma Building.

As distinct from members of the Duma, the City Assembly, a consultative body under the Tambov Municipal Council, regards the Soviets as an anachronism. Their view is backed by Master of History Valeriy Koval, the Tambov Mayor. Protracted disputes were rounded off today by a decision to let the local population decide itself what kind of power it wants in the city.

Canada To Help Build Nuclear Powerplant in Maritime

MK2110095195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Lidiya Smirnova from Vladivostok: "A Nuclear Power Plant To Be Built in Maritime Kray After All. Far East Residents Forced To Do So by Energy Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An energy crisis appears to have forced Maritime Kray to give their consent to the construction of a nuclear power plant there, a plan they flatly rejected in the late 1980's. Mikhail Savchenkov, deputy governor of Maritime Kray, said at a meeting of the heads of city and rayon administrations that on 25 October officials of the Maritime Kray administration, the Russian Federation Atomic Energy Ministry, and "Condor," a Canadian power technology concern, are scheduled to sign an agreement on building a nuclear power plant designed to operate for 60 years.

An initial agreement on cooperation with the Canadians was reached during Viktor Chernomyrdin's recent visit to that country. The Canadian side pledged to fund 80 percent of the project, while the remaining 20 percent will be paid by the Russian Federation Government. By estimates of electric power industry specialists, the new nuclear power plant, together with four existing thermal power plants operating in the kray, will fully satisfy Maritime Kray's electric power requirements.

Local "greens" are not yet opposing the plans to nuclearize Maritime Kray's electric power industry. Still, Georgiy Yelyakov, presidium chairman of the Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, has spoken out against the nuclear power facility. In his view, it will make no sense even economically. The scientist called the construction of a nuclear power plant in a kray with a population of 3 million people an absurdity. Throughout the world, he said, such plants service at least 15 million people each.

The academician called on local and federal authorities to think about ways of more effective collaboration between enterprises of the fuel and energy industry operating in the Far East. Georgiy Yelyakov is certain that most Russians do not realize "the whole scale of the tragedy that occurred in Chernobyl, and even specialists do not have complete information on all consequences of the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant."

Economic Issues

Food Reserves Down After Grain Financing Ends

LD2010192095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — This year Russia stopped government financing of grain purchases and is now experiencing great difficulties in forming federal food reserves used for supplying the army, Interior Ministry and big cities. According to the Agriculture Ministry, only 617,100 tonnes instead of the planned 8.6 million were purchased by October 14. Nothing was bought during the week of October 7 through 14.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that harvesting is practically over and the harvest is expected to be the smallest in 30 years — 65-66 million tonnes.

The government tried to change the situation and passed a resolution on September 29 to attract 3 trillion rubles in credits from commercial banks to finance purchases. The Federal Food Corporation formed in October 1994 was to receive the credits.

However, major commercial banks have been reluctant to offer credits because they doubt the reliability of the corporation and the ability of the federal budget to repay the credits. They point to the failure of the corporation to repay earlier loans. For instance, last May the corporation received about 250 billion rubles from Tveruniversalbank for three months but did not repay the sum on time which led to hearings at a Moscow court last September.

In this context experts say that changing the borrowing party may be the solution.

Provincial commercial banks are believed to be the only potential creditors of the Federal Food Corporation because for them Finance Ministry guarantees are sufficient reason for lending. But the possible insolvency of the corporation could cause a new crisis in the interbank market comparable to black Thursday last August.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Russian grain market is paradoxical as the minimal free grain resources are not finding buyers. There is a danger that farmers will sell the grain to small private companies for cash and the grain will be taken to former Soviet republics across transparent borders.

Experts say the only way to avoid that is to speedily find actual sources of finance for federal purchases or change the pattern of purchases.

Livshits: Yeltsin Economic Decrees 'Extraordinary'

LD2010193695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1736 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — Presidential economic policy adviser Aleksandr Livshits at a news briefing on Friday described as "extraordinary" two economic decrees President Yeltsin signed this week.

The adviser said the main idea of the decrees was to provide effective government support to what he described as the "battleships and dreadnoughts" of the Russian economy, but with strings attached.

Yeltsin's decree of Tuesday says Moscow and the regional government in Rostov should strike a deal with the Rostselmash farm equipment makers, makers of Don harvesters, under which government support would be made available to the company depending on how it coped with government-set demands.

Livshits said he was appointed in charge of an observer council to keep an eye on how government allocations in the form of credits or finance ministry guarantees and so on were being spent.

Yeltsin's other decree of Thursday orders the liquidation of the government holding, Rossisky elektrotransport, set up in March 1993 and failing to make any progress since.

Livshits who described the decree as being extraordinary said there was nothing to prevent the companies forming the holding to reunite but without subsidies this time.

Government Adopts Program To Stimulate Investment

MK2110094995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Government Has Adopted a Program To Stimulate Investment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government has adopted a comprehensive program aimed at stimulating domestic and foreign investment in the country's economy. The document says that depreciation funds of state-owned and private enterprises will become the main source of investments in 1995-1997. At the same time, federal budget funds will remain an important source of investment for the next two years. In 1996, their volume will account for 1.5 percent of the predicted gross domestic product. Such sources of funding as the secondary issue of securities and commercial bank credits will gain considerable importance over the next few years, with their share in the total volume of investment expected to reach about 3 percent by 1997. The share of foreign investment could rise from 3.3 percent in 1995 to 5.2 percent in 1997.

Decree on Lowering Car Import Duties Drafted

MK2110083195 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Vadim Bardin: "Mercedes Becomes Russia's 'People's' Car"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft decree has been prepared in the government on automobile import tax liberalization. The first to be lowered are excise duties from the current 35-70 percent to 10-25 percent, according to available information. Thus the ideal period in the history of Russian automobile construction is winding up ingloriously.

There was nothing to augur a reduction in the excise duties on imported cars. On the contrary, the duties were hiked last November to 50 percent of the customs cost for engines between 1,501 and 3,000 cubic cm. The rate was as high as 70 percent for more powerful vehicles. Significantly, this was happening at the same time that excise duties on "Zhiguli" and "Moskvich" cars were being lowered. Car import duties were also increased on 1 July 1995. At a quite recent government session, the first deputy foreign economic relations minister, Mikhail Fradkov, proposed that import duties be raised once again without delay even before joining the WTO [World Trade Organization]. True, that only affected food, and car importers seemed to be lucky. Why?

The answer may appear somewhat unexpected. At the time of creating a customs union between Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, one of the stumbling blocks in bringing in general import rules were customs and excise duties on imported cars. Minsk, which flatly refused to support Russian car manufacturers artificially, was especially active. Moreover, under uniform excise duties, Belarus entrepreneurs would lose their channel for supplying cars to the Russian market. Then, as follows from a statement by Deputy Premier Aleksey Bolshakov, a Solomonic decision was found. The idea of uniform duties remained, but it was to be implemented through lowering Russian excise duties. Valeriy Serov, chief of the Russian Ministry of Economic Cooperation with Commonwealth Member States, also told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent about the upcoming lowering of car import customs duties. This information, however, was not confirmed at the State Customs Committee or the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

Thus, membership in the CIS customs union may unexpectedly benefit importers of Western cars. The probable decisive argument was provided by the president's edict of 14 September 1995 "On a Strategic Policy Toward CIS Countries." A more mundane explanation is not ruled out: An unrestrained fiscal zeal has led to falling budget revenues.

Finding themselves the losers are AvtoVAZ and "Moskvich" — champions in budget benefits. These benefits resulted in nothing but continual raising of prices on the products of the two plants, attended by sporadic production stoppages. At one point, tens of thousands of cars that could not be sold owing to their exorbitant price accumulated in Togliatti. It is rather curious that Vladimir Kadannikov [AvtoVAZ director] met with the president in the middle of last week, and, according to official information, they discussed, in particular, the prospects of the tax and foreign trade policy. Mr. Kadannikov is perhaps counting on getting some form of political compensation for AvtoVAZ's losses.

One way or another, Russian manufacturers have not been left totally unprotected: The duties will in all likelihood not be lowered, but Russian automobile kings will now sense their competitors breathing down their necks. An important precedent has been created. The government is departing from the principle of protecting Russian manufacturers at any price down to preserving technological backwardness, and quite expected accusations of a "comprador attitude" [kompradorstvo] that this decision might spark among the opposition are not stopping it.

Energy Minister: Moscow To Cut Oil Export Duties

LD2010202295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KEMEROVO, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — A resolution of the Russian government cutting oil export duties has already been drafted and will be signed in a few days, Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik told INTERFAX Friday.

The measure is absolutely necessary in order to maintain the profitability of oil export, he said.

Shafranik is currently in Kuzbass as a member of an interdepartmental commission studying the social and economic problems of coal-mining regions.

"As for the export of coal, the government is currently working out measures to support it," said Shafranik. He gave a positive assessment to the recent government resolution to freeze railroad shipments fares until the end of 1995.

Shafranik also said that the Fuel and Energy Ministry and the Railroad Ministry are studying the possibility of "a certain reduction" of railroad fares for shipments of coal abroad. "We believe that such a reduction would be profitable not only for the coal industry but for railroad workers as well since growing turnover would increase their profits," he said.

Chubays: Ruble Exchange Rate in Line With Reality

LD2110162595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KEMEROVO, Oct 21 (INTERFAX) — The ruble's exchange rate corresponds with economic reality in Russia, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said at a meeting with the directors of enterprises in Kemerovo today.

The meeting was held to discuss industrial policy.

Chubays told the directors of enterprises complaining about the "currency corridor" as a factor inhibiting exporters that the "currency corridor" in fact "does not exist." He said the role of the "currency corridor" from the very beginning was "psychological for 99%."

Chubays said that after the ruble was pegged the government had not held a single meeting to discuss measures for keeping the ruble within the set limits. He said the ruble's exchange rate was determined "only by the objective situation in the economy.

Chubays said the "psychological role" of the "currency corridor" consisted in decreasing inflationary expectations among the population and enterprises. "This was necessary to halt the growth in prices," Chubays said.

Election Coverage Endangered by Electricity Debts

LD2010163795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1336 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Marina Barinova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 20 (ITAR-TASS) — "A regular coverage of the election campaign as well as of the elections by radio and television is in great doubt," Russian Deputy Minister of Communications Mikhail Yelizarov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Friday.

"Power engineers may switch off communications centres for debts at any time, which broadcast radio and TV programmes across Russia. The Communications Ministry informed the government, the Russian president's office and the Central Electoral Commission of the critical situation," the deputy minister stressed.

According to the latest information from communications organisations, radio and TV broadcasting was completely switched off on Friday in the Tuva Republic, a constituent part of the Russian Federation situated in southern Siberia on the border with Mongolia.

Electricity supplies were cut to the Komsomolskiy Radio Centre providing the Khabarovsk territory and the Far East with programmes of Russian radio, the Mayak radio station and of other centres until they pay their arrears.

Transmitting communications centres are idle in the cities of Tver and Obninsk (not far from Moscow) from September. Foreign countries do not hear Russia either: Broadcasting for central and western areas of China and Mongolia was stopped. Programmes for Japan, South America and Europe are only transmitted from time to time.

"I believe that the situation will be changed as a result of the Russian president's 'Decree on Improving TV and Radio Broadcasting in Russia'", Yelizarov noted. The document permits to use wider finances of territories to develop regional communications networks.

The decree suggests that work should be started on a project of a federal purpose-oriented programme to develop TV and radio broadcasting and to create their own networks for broadcasting programmes by territories.

Specialists from the federal service for radio and TV broadcasting will participate in drafting it together with communications engineers.

Khandruyev on Need for 'Strong' Bank Chairman

LD2010194495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Robert Serebrennikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Aleksandr Khandruyev, First Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, said on Friday that he will not think twice if offered the post of bank chairman.

The media mention him among other possible candidates to the post — Sergey Dubinin, Yakov Dubenetskiy, Aleksandr Livchits. Under the law on the Central Bank, Tatyana Paramonova can be nominated to the post of Chairwoman of the Central Bank again.

Khandruyev said that the Chairman of the Central Bank should combined three qualities: be highly professional, a diplomat and a very good bureaucrat, that is being able to take within allotted time rational decisions conforming to the letter and the spirit of law.

The experience of Paramonova's work showed that being acting Chairperson is an unsatisfying duty in the present unstable economic and political situation, Khandruyev said. Therefore, it is in the interests of all branches of power to have a really strong Chairman of the Central Bank who has powers and is able to form structures of the Central Bank and make well-considered strategic proposals and decisions.

International Affairs

Kuchma, Delegation Arrive in New York for Summit

LD2210120495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's official delegation, led by President Leonid Kuchma, arrived in New York on Saturday to attend festivities marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Organization. The delegation includes Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, Chairman of the Ukrainian president's administration Dmytro Tabachnyk, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Serhiy Osyka, and other officials. The main objective of the visit is to attend a special grand session of the UN General Assembly at summit level to be held at the UN headquarters 22-24 October to mark the organization's 50th anniversary.

Participants in the forum will exchange opinions on the role and place of the United Nations in international relations, analyze the results of the organization's activities over the past 50 years, and outline the prospects and main tasks facing the United Nations Organization on the threshold of the 21st century.

The program of the Ukrainian president's visit to New York envisions a meeting with professors of Columbia University — one of the most prestigious educational establishments in the United States, a meeting with leading U.S. businessmen and representatives of the Ukrainian community, and a ceremony of opening new premises for Ukraine's permanent mission at the United Nations Organization. The presence of the overwhelming majority of leaders of the UN member states in New York will give Kuchma a unique opportunity to hold a number of bilateral meetings at summit level.

Kuchma Addresses UN Session

LD2210171495 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1445 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Address by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma given at the 50th Jubilee UN General Assembly session in New York; no video available — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mr. Chairman, esteemed Mr. Secretary-General, esteemed heads of state and government, ladies and gentlemen.

I am speaking from this most important rostrum of the planet with a feeling of pride, gratitude, and hope. I am proud of the wisdom and far-sightedness of the founders of the United Nations Organization who actually laid the basis of a new world order. Having challenged history itself, they made an attempt to oppose the forces of animosity and intolerance with peacefulness and mutual assistance and gained victory for the first time ever.

The peoples of the planet have received a unique tool providing for the consolidation of mankind as a single universal body in its attempts to survive and build a better world. I am still more proud of the fact that representatives of my nation were among the founders of the United Nations Organization. In its turn, Ukraine received access to the United Nations Organization's rostrum, which was virtually the only rostrum at worldwide level from which Ukraine could announce its existence. The UN support had an essential influence on the implementation of the long-cherished aspiration [of the Ukrainian people] for their own statehood. Finally, I pin high hopes on the future of the United Nations Organization, which is bringing us closer to the point when we will be able to say: The United Nations — the united world.

With the end of the era of a fierce ideological confrontation, mankind managed to essentially reduce the threat of self-destruction in a nuclear conflagration and set up reliable enough mechanisms of international security.

I am pleased to point out that Ukraine made a special contribution to the cause of disarmament. The third largest nuclear state was the first in the world to renounce its nuclear status and nuclear weapons on a voluntary basis. However, in so doing we are incurring huge economic and ecological losses. I am convinced that the granting of a special status with international security guarantees, consolidated financial and technical assistance, and moral stimuli to the countries that renounce nuclear weapons will give a powerful impetus to the acceleration of the nuclear disarmament process. It could be implemented through a new UN program: 21st century world without nuclear weapons.

The peacekeeping activities need to be permanently improved and their effectiveness raised; first and foremost, in the direction of switching over to preventive diplomacy in order to prevent conflicts. The establishment of UN guardianship over the processes of formation of new states will also contribute toward that end, with the aim of preventing the use of force and abiding by the established rules of international law. At the same time, the world community should adapt its attitude to separatism, which is often the primary cause of local conflicts, and that may become the most violent challenge to peace in the 21st century, to the present-day realities. The end to the world's division into antagonistic systems is connected with the in-depth internal transformations in the post-socialist countries. I am convinced of the necessity to establish the most favorable procedure for these countries' integration into the world community. The creation of a new body, along with the Security Council, which will be equally important and influential — an economic security council — precisely with the aim of defining the strategic prospects for mankind's development and making preventive efforts during the decades to come, will promote the process of drafting specific proposals as regards international support to their development.

Mr. Chairman, the United Nations Organization was founded by the people who were well aware that nations, peoples, and states are interdependent and mutually complementing parts of a single continent called mankind. The presence of an unprecedented number of world leaders here today is convincing evidence of their support for the United Nations at the turning point of its development. Therefore, the main task for the United Nations today is to find its place in new conditions and move along the road prompted by the realities of our life. The source of its strength, longevity, and moral health is in the realization of this.

Thank you for your attention.

Zlenko Urges Ban on Nuclear Testing

LD2110163995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, [no date as received] — Ukraine stresses that one cannot consider the current international situation stable when there is the simultaneous existence of states that construct their security on the possession of nuclear weapons, "threshold" states, and states that have never possessed nuclear weapons but have voluntarily rejected them, Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's permanent representative to the UN said during a debate at the UN General Assembly committee, which is examining the problems of disarmament and international security.

He stressed the expediency of taking measures to impart a universal nature to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. According to Zlenko, the world community ought to direct its efforts at completing a nuclear test ban treaty through a disarmament conference by the end of 1996. Zlenko emphasized that Ukraine expresses the desire to become a fully-fledged member of the disarmament conference.

Ukraine's permanent representative to the UN stressed that the consistency of Ukraine's policies is demonstrated by its declaration of a moratorium on the export of antipersonnel mines and its measures to properly implement the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

Participation in NAM Summit 'History-Making Event'

LD2310171995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 23 Oct 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, October 23 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Volodymyr Khandogy, Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister, has described as a "history-making event" the participation of the Ukrainian delegation having the status of a special guest at the 11th Non-Aligned [Movement — NAM] summit meeting, which closed in Cartagena (Colombia) last week. The Ukrainian delegation was led by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk.

"We have made a step forward towards drawing closer with a very important organization of countries playing a major role in the world today," Volodymyr Khandogy told newsmen.

He noted that the movement is an important machinery of their interaction, and the principles of their conduct are outlined at such meetings. "After joining that organization Ukraine could play a role in forming such principles," he believes.

At the same time, the Deputy Foreign Minister noted that Ukraine should make a decision as regards the degree of further mutual relations with the Non-Aligned Movement. In his view, the guest status "does not accord fully with our tasks." "We should reach an observer status at the Non-Aligned Movement at the earliest date possible," which will make it possible to participate in the work of the bodies of interest for Ukraine, V. Khandogy believes.

As regards the resolution of the question of Ukraine's full-fledged membership in the non-aligned movement, he believes that restraint should be displayed so far. "Possibly, at this stage we should more attentively watch the workings of the Non-Aligned Movement, he said and added that such countries as, for example, Sweden, are taking an active part in the work of the Non-Aligned Movement, while observing the observer status and without seeking full membership.

On top of that, Khandogy recalled that "today Ukraine does not seek NATO membership" and believes that "the development of our relations with the alliance will influence the decision on a more active participation in the Non-Aligned Movement."

In his words, in the course of Marchuk's bilateral meetings in Cartagena, the sides showed interest in the development of Ukraine's contacts with NATO and her participation in the "Partnership for Peace" programme.

Marchuk Meets Indian, Egyptian Officials

LD2010220495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — In accordance with the Ukrainian delegation's program in the Colombian city of Cartagena at the meeting of heads of states and governments of the members countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk met Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Amr Musa. The state of and prospects for bilateral relations and the possibility of Ukraine cooperating with these countries were analyzed. The importance of our state's attendance at the international forum in Cartagena was emphasized. The UNIAN news agency learned this at the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry's press office.

Premier Marchuk Stops in Cuba After Columbia Summit

LD2110063595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0545 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Zhukovskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 21 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk made a stopover in Havana on Friday night on his way from Colombia, where he attended the Nonaligned summit meeting.

At the capital's airport he was met by First Vice President Raul Castro and Carlos Lage, vice president of the Cuban State Council. During the one-day visit, the Ukrainian prime minister will have talks with Carlos Lage and will visit a number of economic facilities.

Ukraine and Cuba established diplomatic relations on 12 March 1992. Last year the trade turnover was $4 million.

Marchuk Upbeat on Economic Cooperation

LD2310171495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 23 Oct 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, October 23 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Economic cooperation between Ukraine and Cuba has good prospects, and Cuba herself may be a good "foothold for trade" in Latin America for Ukraine, believes Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk.

On their way back home, the Ukrainian delegation led by Yevhen Marchuk made a 24-hour stop-over in Cuba for negotiations with Raul Castro and Carlos Lage, vice presidents of the Council of States and of the Council of Ministers.

The idea of such a working visit, Marchuk said, originated during his meetings with Fidel Castro in Cartagena. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is to visit Havana in spring 1996, and Carlos Lage is due to visit Ukraine even earlier.

"If we wish to work in Latin America, we should rely for support on Cuba," the prime minister believes. The Cuban side expressed interest at the talks in the supply of machinery made in Ukraine. Yet, because of foreign policy circumstances (the embargo) and the economic situation "this is so far disadvantageous to us," Yevhen Marchuk noted.

Nevertheless, Marchuk said, some projects can be implemented already now, in particular, concerning Cuban nickel supplies to Ukraine. Apart from that, the Cuban side shows interest in the import of mineral fertilizers from Ukraine and export of raw sugar.

The prime minister said that the implementation of the latter project presupposes the participation of Russia that could supply fuel for Ukrainian ships engaged in these transportation operations and use a part of the sugar refined at Ukrainian factories from Cuban raw material. "Russia will agree to that," Marchuk believes.

The Ukrainian delegation returned to Kiev on Sunday evening.

Ukraine, FYROM To Join Council of Europe 9 Nov

LD2110094895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has invited Ukraine and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM] to join the organization, increasing the number of members states to 38, says a press release circulated by the Council of Europe press center on 20 October. The two countries' applications were approved by the council's parliamentary assembly on 26-27 September 1995.

The admission ceremony will be held on 9 November 1995 at the Palace of Europe in Strasbourg, the release says.

Ukraine submitted its application on 14 July 1992. Macedonia applied on 25 June 1993.

Russia Blamed for Likely Failure To Honor CFE Treaty

MK2110095295 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Viktor Zamyatin: "Ukraine Does Not Wish To Be Responsible for Someone Else's Tanks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Much has been said and written about Russia's and Ukraine's special stance on the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE). After the West made a concession to Moscow and Kiev by promising to revise their arms quotas in the flank areas, the question seemed to have been closed. Yesterday, however, the Ukrainian representative at the conference of the CFE consultative group, Mykola Makarevich, stated that Ukraine would not be able to honor all the terms of the treaty before 16 November 1995, when it enters into force.

According to Volodymir Belashov, chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Disarmament Control Administration, Ukraine is honoring its arms reduction commitments. For example, it has already met the targets for armored personnel carriers and planes, with 1,974 tanks, as required under the treaty, to be cut by 31 October. However, as Belashov pointed out, there exist, in addition to the CFE treaty, documents connected with it, in particular, the Soviet government statement of 14 June 1991, under which the USSR committed itself to cut, in addition to the treaty's norms, the weaponry of coast guard and naval infantry units. Today, the Black Sea Fleet naval infantry and coast guard, still undivided between Moscow and Kiev, are equipped with 271 tanks, 749 armored vehicles, and 208 artillery systems that Ukraine is unable to eliminate. This means an evident technical violation of the treaty. Agreeing (for a fee) to have Russian ships temporarily based on its territory, Ukraine is confident that there should be no Russian fleet ground units there. Since the fleet remains undivided, Kiev thinks it is not responsible for violating the treaty.

Belashov added that there were no naval infantry tanks on Ukrainian soil at the time the USSR signed the CFE treaty. In the meantime, the Black Sea Fleet command moved to Ukraine 51 tanks in violation of the treaty. Kiev continues to insist that it did not transfer any tanks to the Black Sea Fleet naval infantry; hence, no tanks should be there.

Kiev's appeals to Russian authorities, according to Belashov, have yielded no results so far. Ukraine still hopes, however, that this is not going to be interpreted as an attempt on its part to worsen relations with Russia and that it will be finally possible to resolve the problem amicably. While nothing has yet been resolved, Ukrainian representatives declare that they are not to blame for anything and that, generally speaking, the problem has an international aspect.

Sevastopol Mayor Views Charges Against Russian Community

LD2210161595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1352 GMT on 22 October carries a Mayak correspondent Svetlana Sokolnina, who reports that once again, the Ukrainian authorities have postponed the trial of Sevastopol's Russian community after the protest statement lodged by the State Duma's Committee for CIS Affairs and Ties with Compatriots, headed by Konstantin Zatulin. The community, which unites representatives of 40 nationalities, is under threat of being closed and its leader Raisa Telyatnikova is charged with threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Telyatnikova, in a recorded statements, says: "Why is the Russian community being closed down? Yes, we are raising the question about the status of Sevastopol, but again at a constitutional level. Yes, we are saying that documents exist, for which the prosecutor accuses us of distributing documents confirming the Russian status of Sevastopol. The formulation in the charge: prints and distributes. These documents are still valid. They exist, and we are indeed printing them, and the newspapers are of course being distributed. The next charge: instigating ethnic dissension. To date, 40 percent of the Russian community is made up of Ukrainians, all nationalities are represented, all for whom Russia is the homeland, culture, Russian language. And indeed, Russia is by right the successor of the Soviet Union. It is for this that under article 52 they warned us: seven years if you don't accept Ukrainian citizenship — I am a Russian citizen — I will be deported; if I don't accept it, I will be given seven years. And everyone is keeping silent. In the State Duma, Konstantin Fedorovich stated, this got into the press: at the level of the Foreign Ministry — those who should defend us — there is silence altogether. Chernomyrdin said: We will defend and we will finance, etc. Well, let's start defending Sevastopol's Russian community, defending our own compatriots. Everyone remains dumb and all our appeals go unanswered."

Parliament Ratifies Economic Agreement With Libya

LD2010220395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — On 20 October, the Ukrainian Supreme Council ratified an agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and Libya "On trade and economic cooperation."

An agreement was also ratified between the Governments of Ukraine and Bulgaria "On mutual promotion and protection of investments."

The Supreme Council ratified an agreement between the Ukrainian Government and the Czech Republic Government "On mutual promotion and protection of investments."

Shmarov: Conflict With Russia 'Not Contemplated'

AU2010163695 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Oct 95 p 1

[MOLOD UKRAYINY report: "Valeriy Shmarov: 'The Ministry of Defense Rules Out a Conflict With the Northern Neighbor'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **On Tuesday [17 October], Ukraine's Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov met in Kiev with heads of central periodicals and members of the organizing committee for holding the World Tenth Kickboxing Championship that will take place in the capital at the end of November. Among other topics discussed at the meeting was the theme of Ukrainian-Russian relations, in particular in the NATO context.**

"Today, nobody is interested in the emergence of a new confrontation barrier between the North Atlantic alliance and the group of countries of the, so to speak, Tashkent Agreement," said Shmarov. "Everybody realizes that this may bring back the "Cold War," if not something worse. Even though some states, in particular, Baltic countries, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Romania are very actively declaring their efforts to join NATO, I can refer to highly placed sources and state this: Nobody is going to admit anybody to NATO immediately. It is understood there that it is not worth complicating the situation in Europe. Everything must proceed through evolution, and the process of integration will continue for more than one year. It is also indisputable that the states in the buffer area deserve to be heeded. A special place there belongs to Ukraine — we are recognized as a kind of leader in that zone. We are sufficiently strong, we hold a stable political position, and our behavior is predictable. Therefore, we may also be expected to be responsible for the entire region. That is why Ukraine is not going to join either NATO or CIS military structures. At the same time, we support cooperation on a bilateral basis within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" in peacekeeping operations. We must have as many friends as possible around us. This will be a means to prevent conflicts."

Answering the question of whether the defense minister thinks a military conflict with Russia is possible, Valeriy Shmarov stressed that, even though our relations are complicated, he believes in the wisdom of nations that will not allow such events to happen. At any rate, the Defense Ministry does not contemplate such hypothetical situations.

Kuchma Signs Decree Regulating 'Space Activity'

LD2010203695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1710 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree "On Measures To Improve State Regulation of Space Activity in Ukraine," the UNIAN news agency learned from sources close to the president's administration.

In accordance with the decree, all types of activity linked to research and use of space, and the production and operation of space technology are to be carried out by Ukrainian businesses with certificates granting them the right to carry out space activity. Ukraine's National Space Agency will issue a certificate after the business has been assessed in accordance with a procedure determined by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. Payments will be made for the issuance of the certificates. The procedure and size of the payment is to be determined by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

In accordance with the decree, from now on talks between Ukrainian and foreign businesses on space activity and contracts for the sale or purchase of space equipment or technology are to be held only with permission from Ukraine's National Space Agency. In addition such agreements or contracts are subject to mandatory registration by Ukraine's National Space Agency. Payment is also to be made for the registration of agreements or contracts.

By decree of the president, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is obliged to confirm within a month provisions on the procedure for issuing certificates for the right to carry out space activity, provisions on the procedure for granting permission to Ukrainian businesses to hold talks and conclude agreements with foreign partners, provisions on the procedure for registering the agreements at Ukraine's National Space Agency, the size of payments and procedure for paying them.

National Affairs

Kuchma Interviewed on CIS, Russia, Parliament's Stance

WS2010145495 Kiev ZERKALO NEDELI in Russian 14-20 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma by Yuliya Mostovaya; place and date not given: "Leonid Kuchma: 'In the Long Run, It All Depends on Us Alone'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **It was initially assumed that Ukrainian-Russian relations will be the only topic of our interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. The recent nervousness and harshness in these relations, a heap of unresolved problems, leaks from confidential and secret documents, as well as sundry comments on them — all this has solidified our desire to ask the head of state for answers able to dot all i's, even if for the current moment. However, as one may say, a journalist proposes, but the president disposes. Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] was in an amiable disposition while we were asking questions about Ukraine's domestic political problems. Therefore, our interview significantly exceeded the framework of one topic and the timeframe reserved for it. For me personally, many answers given by the president seemed quite forthright and unexpected. However, the most pleasant surprise was how the Ukrainian president began his interview:**

"I know that the last edition of ZERKALO NEDELI marked a jubilee for you. One year of publishing showed that the destiny of your newspaper is in the hands of true professionals and experts at their job, since your ZERKALO [Mirror], in principle, reflects facts truly, not in a distorted manner. Keep that course in the future, too! I realize that your newspaper is elitist and read not by everybody, only by those who have actually not forgotten how to think on their own. Such a newspaper, however, is very necessary, and its appearance in Ukraine was undoubtedly useful."

Having thanked the president on behalf of the entire editorial staff for this complimentary assessment of our job, we quit celebrations for everyday matters. For starters, those in the sphere of foreign policy.

[Mostovaya] A summit of the heads of CIS states is approaching. Many events of recent weeks suggest that this may be a breakthrough meeting. What is Ukraine's strategic line regarding the Commonwealth [of Independent States]?

[Kuchma] Having spent some time in politics, I, frankly speaking, do not believe much in the possibility of some breakthrough meetings in this sphere. In my opinion, this term applies more to medicine than political processes. As for politics, there are exposed and hidden trends, as well as a certain inertia, which manifests itself in one way or another. Happy chances, surprises, "breakthroughs," and other miracles in politics are extremely rare. I do not think that the approaching meeting will be somehow out of the ordinary.

As for the strategic line with regard to the CIS, it remains invariable for us, and its essence is to provide an adequate content to the name of this organization. Since we called it a "Commonwealth," the principles of mutual relations within this association should be built on mutual respect, understanding, and equal rights.

If we speak about "independent states," this implies not only acceptance of each other's independence, but also the readiness to render mutual assistance to secure this independence with a real economic, political, social, and cultural potential.

In this respect, Russia, as the economically strongest state in the territory of the former USSR, could show an invaluable example by assisting in the formation of independent countries and the development of truly equal, good-neighborly, and mutually beneficial relations between them. Unfortunately, certain Russian politicians show a somewhat different approach to their neighbors. It is enough to recall the case when the commander of the Ukrainian Navy was not invited to celebrate Black Sea Fleet Day. There are attempts at similar actions in the economic sphere, too.

The essence of our strategic line lies in eliminating such trends from within the Commonwealth, in constantly underscoring equal rights for all CIS countries, irrespective of their economic potential, military strength, etc.

[Mostovaya] What is your attitude toward the creation of a CIS military block?

[Kuchma] I am a pragmatist and I always stick to a functional approach to politics. Therefore, the problem of creating new military blocs, including the CIS, is for me a problem of determining the functions of those blocs. While old military blocs often exist under their own momentum, in creating new ones you must always give a clear answer to the following questions: Why do you need to create them? Against whom do you want to create them? What purposes are they to pursue? And so on.

Moreover, apart from anything else, the creation of a military bloc should be a logical consequence of quite serious confrontation. And whom does Ukraine confront today?

As of today, I do not see any global threat, challenge, or aggression which would require the creation of a CIS military bloc. Naturally, there exist local tension spots in various regions of the Commonwealth, but neutralizing local threats requires local agreements.

I repeat, as of today, there is no universal, all-encompassing danger which could predetermine and functionally justify the need to create such a bloc. Accordingly, such is also Ukraine's attitude toward this kind of project.

In addition, we should not forget that Ukraine has the status of a neutral, non-bloc country. This formula is legally sealed by the country's highest legislative body, hence all reproaches cast upon Ukraine from one side or another for its unwillingness to join any military bloc are simply groundless from the legal point of view.

[Mostovaya] Could Ukraine find itself under an economic blockade unless it joins the customs union?

[Kuchma] No, there is no such threat, all the more so in the literal sense of the word. And here is why. First, it is essentially wrong to treat the trade and economic relations between Ukraine and Russia as a unilateral dependence of Ukraine on Russia. There is a mutual dependence.

For Russia, Ukraine is not only, and not so much, a supplier of important commodities, such as foodstuffs, ferrous metals, special sorts of steel, manganese ore, ferrous alloys, kaolin, various pipes for the Russian gas and oil industry, gas pumping stations, mining equipment, and so on.

Ukraine for Russia is primarily one of the essential markets for Russian commodities, first and foremost, basic Russian exports: gas, oil, oil products, and nonferrous metals. For some of these commodities, Ukraine's share in Russia's total exports amounts from 10 to 30 percent, which means billions of dollars.

It is no secret that global commodity markets have been divided long ago and in a very rigid manner. There is no end to cruel competition; just the opposite, competition is being intensified, often transforming itself into so-called trade wars. Gaining a place, even a small one, in these markets by new sellers is connected with very complex, very long, and no less costly work. Therefore, the main struggle is for preserving formerly gained markets. Hence, a loss of even one or two percent of traditional markets, let alone 10 percent (not to mention 30 percent), may turn into huge economic losses and corresponding social consequences.

Second, we must not forget about interdependence in the production cooperation between many thousands of Ukrainian and Russian enterprises working in single production cycles. Many of them are arranged in a way that final products are made at Ukrainian enterprises. It is impossible to change this in a year or two. Making changes, as you may calculate, would cost us a pretty penny.

Third, it is necessary to take into account the fact that a huge quantity of goods, amounting to a large percentage (for a number of export goods — from 50 to 80 percent) of Russian foreign trade turnover, is transported by motor vehicles, railways, pipelines, or energy supply lines across Ukrainian territory.

I could continue — fourth, fifth.... But the point is not in this. The main point is in the fact that both we and our Russian colleagues realize such interdependence. Therefore, we are resolutely seeking to create equal and mutually beneficial mechanisms in our trade relations. This, from our point of view, primarily includes a stage-by-stage creation and implementation of a free trade system, which, incidentally, was fixed in an agreement with Russia on 7 February 1995. In other words, this means that the Russian side officially admits that a mutually beneficial regulation of trade may be realized not only through the customs union, created with the participation of Kazakhstan and Belarus, but also on the basis of a bilateral free trade mechanism. As the next stage following a free trade system, Ukraine may fully accept a mutually beneficial customs union.

[Mostovaya] Which leaders (inside or outside the CIS) can render Ukraine support if our state conducts a sufficiently independent policy?

[Kuchma] There is no permanent answer to this question, given that various leaders' attitude toward Ukraine and its independence is a dynamic process which is sometimes subject to dramatic changes.

You may remember that in the initial stage of Ukraine's independence there was no unanimous support for our new course, even among the leaders of the Western states. At present, we receive tangible Western credits and investments precisely to assist our independent policy.

Therefore, it is rather difficult to specifically name those who support our independent policy.

On the other hand, I would not like to divide the leaders of foreign states into two camps — that of either friends or ill-wishers. In the long run, everything will depend on ourselves. If we become strong in economic terms and achieve social stability and spiritual heights, hardly anybody will dare to put obstacles in the way of our independent policy. If we are weak and impotent, all of a sudden there will be a lot of critics, skeptics, and opponents of our independence among various politicians and state leaders.

[Mostovaya] Moscow leaders have recently admitted the fact that they supported your candidacy in the presidential elections. Among other things, this kind of support was expressed by Russian politicians and was reflected in the policy of Ostankino Television. In this issue, as well as in a number of other issues, Russia has proven that it can exert tangible influence over Ukraine's internal political process. However, many people in Moscow currently believe that you "failed" the hopes they pinned on you. [Russian] politicians have started to speak in a different manner, and so has Ostankino. Do you not think that with the same amount of vigor with which Moscow supported your candidacy it will now be trying to saw off the legs of the Ukrainian president's chair?

[Kuchma] First, there were certain people in Moscow who supported me, and not "Moscow" in general. Those were my old friends, comrades with whom I was engaged in the same kind of business for many years. Later, we found ourselves in different states but did not lose mutual trust, sympathy, and respect. There are hundreds or even thousands of such people in Russia — members of the technocratic elite with whom I used to work.

For instance, I am referring to such people as Arkadiy Volskiy, whom I am going to meet in Kiev, managers of certain huge enterprises of the aerospace complex, and so on. These people are aware of my belief in the necessity to establish friendly and good-neighbor relations between our states; they know my striving for the Ukrainian nation's independence and my respect for the Russian people's independence. Therefore, they undoubtedly wished me luck in the elections and rendered feasible support, at least in moral terms. They spoke about me positively to the media. However, speaking about the Russian media, for some reason people tend to forget that they gave much more airtime to Leonid Kravchuk than to me.

As for my former Russian colleagues, my old brothers-in-arms, I have not felt any change in their attitude. Most probably, they do not have any major objections to my policy in the sphere of Ukrainian-Russian relations or to my invariably warm and respectful feelings for the great Russian people. Wrapping it up, friendship measured by political considerations is not worth a penny.

As for my ill-wishers, I also had and still have those in Russia, yet I think that they currently have other things on their minds than "sawing off the legs of my chair."

[Mostovaya] Does Russia possess real levers to exert influence on the stability of the Ukrainian karbovanets, the power supplies during winter, or the fragile balance of social peace and accord in Ukraine?

[Kuchma] Russia cannot exert cardinal influence on the karbovanets rate. It can only destabilize it to a certain degree. There is no doubt that if Russia treated its desire to "destroy" the karbovanets as a strategic political priority, there is a good chance that it would be able to do so. But why would it? This would run counter to Russia's own basic economic, and even political interests.

I have already said that Ukraine and Russia still constitute each other's principal markets. Therefore, the instability of either state's monetary unit would have a painful impact on the situation in the other country.

As for the karbovanets's stability, two-thirds of it depends on the efficiency of internal economic reform. Only one-third depends on the availability or absence of foreign economic assistance. If we manage to restructure and organize domestic production, find a successful owner for state property, build an efficient executive hierarchy, create a sound model of local self-administration, and overcome the consequences of the former nonoptimal economic course, both the national currency and the national economy in general will stabilize. The stable functioning of the economy will help protect civic accord in Ukraine. At the same time, we must certainly not underestimate the influence of external factors on the development of our society.

[Mostovaya] We have been told many times that the Russian leadership's harsh statements addressed to Ukraine can be explained by the election campaign which is under way in the neighboring state. What is your attitude toward the fact that Ukraine is being made a "scapegoat" again? What practical consequences may electoral oratory exercises have for relations between our two states?

[Kuchma] The point is that very often relations between our states are sorted out by the media. This is a negative phenomenon. Another equally negative phenomenon is the fact that all the important issues are discussed by experts and not by government officials, and the results of these kinds of discussions are reported by the media. Presidents, too, have recently maintained contacts through the media, and have exchanged letters only in exceptional cases. Incidentally, I would like to remind you that there is a mutual agreement about the necessity to maintain regular personal contacts, in particular to resolve the sore problem of the Black Sea Fleet. This sort of situation cannot but have a negative impact on our relations.

At the same time, I have often pointed out that we are fated to maintain good-neighborly relations with Russia. We are so strongly connected by economic, historic, and spiritual ties that any politician who would try to play the anti-Russian card would be doomed to fail.

Meanwhile, certain newspapers — both Russian and Ukrainian — see their goal as provoking clashes between Ukrainian and Russian politicians and later basing their sensational reports on these. Believe me, this is by far not the best stance.

[Mostovaya] Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko recently came forward with a concept in accordance with which Ukraine can serve as a mediator in NATO's relations with Russia. Do you think that this is a realistic concept?

[Kuchma] Serving as a mediator between a foreign state and a military-political bloc is quite a complex task.

Let us specify what the functions of mediators are in international, diplomatic relations. A mediator is a party which, usually on a voluntary basis, undertakes certain economic expenditures to help resolve a conflict between other parties. A mediator should know all the evident and latent interests of other parties, given that without this knowledge it would be impossible to coordinate those interests, and thus, reconcile the parties. A mediator is someone who has great experience in conducting peacemaking activities in a given region, someone who has successfully performed the same role many times. If you compare the requirements a mediator has to meet and Ukraine's current potential, you will have an answer to your question.

At the same time, I do not rule out Ukraine's participation in resolving either the issue that you mentioned or other less important issues. Incidentally, you have written about Ukraine's attempts to help resolve the conflicts in the Dniester area, Tadjikistan, the Balkans, and the like.

[Mostovaya] At the ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations at end of October, you are to deliver a speech immediately after U.S. President Bill Clinton. No Ukrainian politician has ever been offered such a high rostrum. The entire world is going to hear you. What are you going to tell the world?

[Kuchma] This will be a ceremonial speech, a very short five-minute one. Therefore, taking into account the festive nature of the event, I am going to express my gratitude to the United Nations for everything it did to support the independence and sovereignty of new states, naturally including Ukraine.

Second, I would like to share with this broad audience my opinions about the United Nations' role, place, and significance in the new transformed world.

This particularly concerns the issues of peacekeeping and democratizing international relations.

Finally, I am going to say that I am looking with optimism to the future of the United Nations. The organization was established and is being maintained by the people who realize that nations, peoples, and states are not warring besieged fortresses or countless islands in the ocean. They are mutually complementary elements of one continent called mankind.

Even if trouble comes to some very small and remote nation, people do not ask for whom the bell tolls. They rush to help because they realize that in our tightly woven world the troubles and sufferings of one nation can easily cross borders and affect all others.

[Mostovaya] Ukrainian media has recently carried contradicting reports attributed to the president, about the "possibility" and "impossibility" of cooperating with the Supreme Council. In this regard, I would like you to specify your vision of prospects for an efficient cooperation between the legislative and executive branches.

[Kuchma] I would like to start by saying that I never refuse to acknowledge what I once said. However, the legislature alone should not be blamed for the current situation. One cannot ignore the current state of affairs in society, which is a product of the hardships of the transitional period — I mean the unstructured nature of both our society and the Supreme Council. Due to this, we have what we have, namely — a lot of political discussions and very few specific actions on the legislature's part.

I know that deputies felt offended after I termed the Supreme Council a "political discussion club." They should not be resentful, because everyone understands very well that I did not mean the legislature as such, but a certain significant portion of it which rejects constructive cooperation with the executive.

Still, there is great hope for successful joint work. A couple of days ago, after the government's action program was approved, I said that we do have a legislature, given that the approval of the government's program, despite the existence of a well-organized opposition, was indeed a positive phenomenon. Then, one day later the Supreme Council passed the Law on the Subsistence Level (although the session hall was half-empty). I regard this fact as an attempt on the part of certain people and forces to avenge the approval of the government's program. I do not think that Supreme Council deputies, including its leadership, do not understand the consequences of adopting this law. One does not have to be an outstanding economist to realize that. Elementary calculations demonstrate that the Law on the Subsistence Level undermines Ukraine's entire financial system. As a result, we will not obtain anything aside from a dramatic deterioration of people's living standards. People understand now that the simple printing of money leads to nowhere and only exacerbates the market situation. We will try again to explain this to the Supreme Council. In addition, we have to take into account the fact that the Law on the Budget is a mandatory document for the government, while Supreme Council resolutions are not. Another mandatory document is the government's own program, which envisions an absolutely different subsistence level. I would like to point out that Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk's report addressed this issue in great detail. The prime minister cited figures to prove that the adoption of the Law on the Subsistence Level would be inexpedient. We should gradually — step by step — move toward improving our situation. However, wage increases should be commensurate with an improvement of indicators in industry and agriculture. Everything should be assessed solely from the perspective of production results. There is no other option, particularly since we do not have any financial reserves. Therefore, I cannot think of any word other than "provocation" to describe the adoption of that law against the backdrop of the overall economic situation.

[Mostovaya] It has been made public that Ukrainian General Prosecutor Vladyslav Datsyuk filed a resignation request. Do you intend to comply with his request? If yes, have you designated a new candidate for this post?

[Kuchma] I will sign Vladyslav Datsyuk's request. I fully realize that there are recommendations from the Supreme Council and that they must be taken into account. I will note that from the very beginning I kept proposing for parliament to follow such a path without violating the Constitutional Agreement. I think that, in general, the public is right in being dissatisfied with the performance of the General Prosecutor's Office, but it was we ourselves, in particular, the Supreme Council, who "helped" bring the performance of the General Prosecutor's Office to so low a level. The solid structure of the Prosecutor's Office was not being built, but ruined. Now we see the consequences. The blame should be put not only on the General Prosecutor, but also on all of us.

Now about a candidate for the General Prosecutor post. There are several candidates, from whom only one may be selected. I must admit that I am in a difficult situation here. I have received 14 petitions from oblast prosecutors' offices proposing to submit the candidacy of Dnepropetrovsk Oblast Prosecutor Hryhoriy Trofymovych Vorsynov, who is 59 years old, for consideration to the Supreme Council. The opinion of oblast prosecutors is a serious factor which I cannot disregard.

I do not want to propose the candidacy of a Kievan. The reason is quite clear: I do not rule out that there are highly professional and competent people in the General Prosecutor's Office, but, as of today, everything there is in such dissaray that I am afraid to "uproot" one of their specialists. Besides, it is simpler for a new man to begin arranging work in a new way. It is possible to create a workable collective, which we badly need, without resorting to personal connections.

On the other hand, I already feel that I will be accused of bringing more cadres from Dnepropetrovsk to Kiev. However, the most interesting point is that I have never met the Donetsk Oblast prosecutor. There has been no reason for this. There are other candidates, no less worthy. But they are not numerous.

[Mostovaya] Yevhen Marchuk's program for the Cabinet of Ministers originated in your October address last year; therefore, its approval by the Supreme Council may be called your common success. Along with this, despite the demonstrated conformity of opinions, many believe, as before, that there are certain confrontational points between you and the prime minister. Is this true?

[Kuchma] I think that you should better ask the prime minister about this. As for me, my actions with regard to Yevhen Marchuk during my presidency speak for themselves. You should remember that I, having become the president, appointed Yevhen Marchuk as head of the Ukrainian delegation in negotiations with Russia. Subsequently, I proposed him to become the first prime minister, thus strengthening his role and importance. Third, if I had had any doubts about Yevhen Kyrylovych [Marchuk], I would not have appointed him prime minister. Thus, there have been, and are, absolutely no contradictions, not an iota. Regarding the problem that is being aired in the media, I find it wholly natural, since, aside from the president and the prime minister, there are also their retinues. Therefore, it is simply necessary to get rid of a retinue trying to play such games. I will do it myself and recommend it the same for the prime minister.

And the last point. As you know, the president fought for a clause in the Constitutional Agreement allowing him to appoint the prime minister. I did not doubt that parliament could reject the candidacy of Yevhen

Marchuk if I proposed him for prime minister. Many deputies are of the opinion that Marchuk knows too much; therefore, in order to be on the safe side, it is better to vote in his favor. But seriously, I fought for this clause only for one reason: I want both the prime minister and the government to be more autonomous and operate on a cardinally new basis. This is the most important reason.

There are no contradictions between me and Marchuk, and Yevhen Kyrylovych himself underscores it in every possible way — both in his statements and by his actions. I realize that he is now facing quite a difficult time. The composition of the government is not uniform, but in general, this is not so bad since there are different opinions. Truth, as we know, is born from arguments. An adopted resolution is another matter — it cannot be discussed anymore; it should be implemented. It is very important to establish such an approach in the Cabinet of Ministers.

I deem Yevhen Kyrylovych a wise man and realize that, in this situation, it makes no sense for him to provoke a confrontation with the president. If the elections were tomorrow, I could believe those trying to convince me about this. I am sure that these clashes would lead to negative consequences not only for politicians, who are being confronted, but also for the entire country. God forbid that we begin any conflict with the prime minister. I think that this is ruled out.

Parliament Assails Kuchma Decree on National Guards

LD2010191395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Melnik and Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, October 20 (ITAR-TASS) — The Ukrainian parliament today has accused President Kuchma of violating the existing legislative space by passing a decree on re-subordination of the Ukrainian national guards to the president.

Apart from imposing veto on the presidential decree, the Ukrainian parliament intends to raise the question of their disbandment.

The Ukrainian lawmakers believe that this problem must be resolved by the parliament only, on whose initiative the national guards were established in November, 1991 and which had been subordinated to the parliament until the president passed his decree.

Many of those who spoke at a parliamentary session today said they believe the decree had a political implication. The lawmakers believe that the president and his team deliberately build up tension in order to discredit the parliament.

Ukrainian Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatyy has taken the president's side, saying the president had acted in compliance with a constitutional agreement reached between the president and the parliament. At the same time, the minister said that he had warned Kuchma about possible confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of power, since there is no mention of a status on national guards, enacted in the past, in new Ukrainian laws.

The lawmakers were told that the president had suggested amendments to the existing law on national guards and submitted them to parliament for approval. The amended law envisages that this military formation shall be subordinated to the head of state — Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Debates of the status of national guards were adjourned until next week.

Kuchma Criticizes Decision on Low-Income Threshold

LD2010194695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1315 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — President Leonid Kuchma has again expressed his lack of understanding of the Supreme Council's decision on the low-income threshold.

"We all understand very well that raising the low-income threshold simply means the collapse of Ukraine's financial system," he said in an interview with journalists on 20 October after a meeting with the group working on preparing the draft constitution of Ukraine.

According to the president: "The executive authorities are not going to work in accordance with the Supreme Council resolutions — that is nonsense."

The head of state is convinced that the parliament decision on the low-income threshold has shown that some political forces are working according to the principle that "the worse things are, the better it is." "Unfortunately, some of them are in the Supreme Council too," he said.

According to Leonid Kuchma, if the Supreme Council wants to amend the budget, "it should adopt a relevant law."

Leonid Kuchma made a positive assessment of the deputies' intention to charge parliamentary commissions and the government with examining the issue of providing for the said resolution, although the president noted that were few such paths.

Leonid Kuchma considers one of them to be the abolition of concessions, which various funds now have. In the president's opinion, the Supreme Council has not yet adopted such a decision because of lobby groups, which protect their own interests. He said that he had sent a letter to deputies in accordance with information from the Ukrainian State Customs Committee, pointing out that excise duty and taxes on spirits, tobacco, coffee, and chocolate, which had been brought into Ukraine over nine months through Kiev customs alone, could have come to 139,000 billion karbovanets.

Crimean Parliament Rejects Draft Constitution

WS2310102795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0147 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By Lilia Budzhurova, "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Oct. 19 — Instead of holding the second reading of the Crimean draft constitution, the Crimean Parliament has sent its Constitutional Committee back for more discussions with national authorities in Kiev on specifics of the document.

Anushevan Danelian, Crimean Parliament Constitutional Committee chairman, addressed the Crimean Parliament on results of his committee's recent sojourn to clear the draft with Kiev. The Ukrainian side disagrees to some definitions in the draft, including the name of the republic, the terms "Crimean people," "Crimean statehood," the territorial affiliation of Sevastopol, Crimean symbols and internal citizenship.

The committee was instructed to provide the Crimean Parliament with an amended draft constitution by Oct. 30 so the legislature can approve it in the second reading.

However, Crimea should not make too many concessions to Ukrainian authorities in drafting the peninsula's new constitution, according to Danelian.

"We deal more with political problems in order to attract attention," drawing less attention to economic problems, Danelian said. Article 100 of the draft constitution provides for economic powers customized for an independent state. He stressed that Crimea must insist on an independent taxation policy and a single-channel budget distribution.

Committee member Aleksandr Morozov was stronger in his sentiment. He said that Crimea needs to make no concessions to national. Morozov was supported by Mikhail Baharev, Crimean Parliamentary Presidium member, who accompanied Crimean Parliament Speaker Yevhen Suprunyuk in his recent trip to Kiev. Baharev said that he went so far as to ask the Council of Europe to refrain from accepting Ukraine into the CE "until it passed a test for democracy." Approval of the Crimean Constitution by the Ukrainian Parliament would be such a test, Baharev said.

Yuriy Zaripov, committee member and "Russia Unity" faction leader, said he was sure that Ukraine will try to "minimize the economic and political rights of Crimea."

Parliament Reinstates Dismissed Crimean Prosecutor

LD2010224795 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's Sevastopol correspondent, Valentyn Kuptsov is to take up his former position as Crimea's prosecutor. The Crimean Supreme Soviet has decided to review a letter signed by both Supreme Soviet Chairman Yevhen Suprunyuk and Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk relieving Mr. Kuptsov of his duties and appointing Bronislav Yevstafyev as acting prosecutor.

A Ukrainian parliamentary commission working in the Crimea made the following statement in connection with an appeal to the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] by Mr. Kuptsov: There are no grounds for relieving Mr. Valentyn Kuptsov of his duties as Crimea's prosecutor and there are no grounds for appointing Mr. Bronislav Yevstafyev as acting prosecutor.

During talks with members of the commission, Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Yevhen Suprunyuk explained that he had signed the document without finding out the details of the issue and expressed regret about his actions. The commission also stated that such actions do not fall within the competence of the chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet as well as that of the Crimean government. It said that the actions violated the procedures for appointing the autonomous republic's prosecutor.

Interior Ministry Warns Breaches of Order To Be Halted

LD2010203495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] — The latest events in Kiev have shown that the concentration of a considerable number of people with opposing views may lead to civic conflicts and mass disorder with unforeseen consequences, says a statement by the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry passed to the UNIAN news agency.

The Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry stresses that, in accordance with current legislation, "any breaches of order, mass measures or actions of force will still be immediately halted, and those guilty will be made liable."

The statement notes that, while carrying out mass measures sanctioned by the local state administrations, the members of some political parties and movements and citizens of an extremist bent, aiming to draw attention to themselves, often violate the procedure determined for such actions.

Defense Minister Comments on New Military Doctrine

LD2010193895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 20 Oct 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, Oct 20 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Ukraine is currently outlining a new military doctrine "proceeding from the new realities", Ukrainian Defence Minister Valeriy Shmarov said.

He was addressing the joint meeting of the Crimean Parliament and the Military Collegium of Ukraine's Defence Ministry in Simferopol on Thursday. One can no longer proceed today from the concept of a hostile encirclement, which was once in use in the USSR, but rather from the premise that "our military forces will confront an integrated enemy", the Defence Minister said.

Therefore, he noted, Ukraine has renounced the strategic nuclear force and long-range bombers. In this connection, the structures of the remaining arms of the service shall be revised, he added.

The Ukrainian Defence Minister noted that there are too many troops in Crimea. While in the past, over 500 army units were stationed in the peninsula, now their number is to be reduced down to 350 units.

Valeriy Shmarov introduced the new Commander of the 32nd Crimean Army Corps, Major-General Ivan Svida, who prior to that was Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander of the first Army Corps in Chernihiv. General Svida is 45 years old.

On Thursday, Valeriy Shmarov wound up his two-day tour of Crimea. He visited the military garrisons of Yevpatoriya and Shkolnaya, where the Ukrainian space troops are stationed, and Baherovo garrison with its airfield and branch of the Luhansk Air Force pilot training school.

Newsmen, among whom was a correspondent of INTERFAX-UKRAINE, were told by Crimea's Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk that Valeriy Shmarov had decided in the course of the tour to turn over 16 thousand hectars of land previously used as shooting and training ranges and areas for the stationing of military garrisons to Leninskiy district of Eastern Crimea.

Valeriy Shmarov has instructed Major-General Nikolay Volovin, Commander of Ukraine's Naval Aviation to prepare proposals on a further use of the costly facility "Nitka" in the Saki garrison which is a pilot simulator facility based in ships.

"The 'Nitka' facility has no mission to perform for the Ukrainian Air Force", the Defence Minister noted. Major-General Volivin proposed that the Nitka facility be leased out to Russia.

A protocol containing problems calling for their resolution has been signed on the results of the Defence Minister's working tour of Crimea.

Sevastopol Loses $69 Million From Black Sea Fleet

LD2110150695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol — Sevastopol city has incurred an estimated $69 million [currency as received] in total losses from the deployment of Black Sea fleet bases in its area, according to a draft program for socioeconomic stabilization submitted to the city council.

It says the fleet owes the city 677.7 billion karbovantsi for fuel supplies, 153.2 billion karbovantsi in taxes and 148 billion karbovantsi for environmental damage.

Economic Issues

Cabinet Discusses Economic Program for 1996

WS2310102895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0147 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By Oleksandr Pukhov, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 20 — "Factors of instability" will continue to influence Ukraine's economy in 1996, Economics Minister Vasyl Hureyev said.

Hureyev made the statements at a Cabinet of Ministers meeting considering a draft program on socioeconomic development for 1996 worked out by the Economics Ministry.

The Cabinet issued a protocol order at its Thursday [19 October] meeting to complete a draft program within three weeks and submit it for examination by the Cabinet Presidium.

According to Hureyev, the government's main task for the next year will be stabilization of production levels and an increase in living standards.

The government is planning for a 1 percent increase in industrial production next year as compared to 1995 levels.

The planned rise in output indicates an estimated gross domestic product of KBV7.83 [karbovantsi] thousand trillion. Of that, the government plans to earmark 31.1 percent of GDP to cover labor costs.

Hureyev said that at this stage of planning, next year's budget deficit should not exceed 6 percent of GDP.

The ministry is expecting prices increases of only 34 percent in December 1996 while that same statistic figures to reach 134 percent this December.

Government predictions for next year's foreign trade deficit point to a $1.7 billion figure. The 1995 estimate is $1.1 billion.

Hureyev said that gaining control of the trade deficit should be achieved by slowing or eliminating the production drop and increasing the demand for fuels and lubricants.

The negative trade balance with Commonwealth of Independent States countries is estimated at $4.2 billion. At the same time, the government is planning on a $2.5 billion positive balance in trade with countries outside the CIS.

About 8,000 state enterprises are slated for privatization in 1996. Production volume emanating from the non-state sector will reach 50 percent of Ukraine's total production next year, according to government projections.

Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk drew attention to this year's budget revenues. He said that of the expected KBV92 trillion figure, only KBV3 trillion was generated from privatization.

National Bank of Ukraine Governor Viktor Yushchenko said he is afraid that the planned level of inflation for 1996 may not be achieved. According to Yushchenko, this inability to control inflation may be due to a possible inability of the government to hold the planned deficit level at under 6 percent. Yushchenko said that next year's planned budget deficit may exceed initial estimates by KBV130 trillion to KBV150 trillion.

Economic Issues Deputy Prime Minister Roman Shpek said that macroeconomic stabilization in the fourth quarter of 1995 is threatened by an imbalance between budget revenues and expenditures.

"The payments we make spontaneously increase the indebtedness of the state," Shpek said.

According to Shpek, product prices for a number of industries, including the natural monopolies, grew from August to September this year much faster than retail prices and wages.

Moroz: Ukraine Living Without 'Own' Economy

LD2010215895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Melnik, Raisa Statsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, October 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Ukraine has been living without its own economy for the last five years, Ukrainian parliament speaker Aleksandr Moroz said in his address to a conference of Ukrainian miners today.

He said Ukraine had been living on loans of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank over that time.

According to Moroz, the Ukrainian economy got dependent on the international financial organisations and its pay for the loans is obedience to them.

Ukraine may soon become a raw materials colony of industrialised states, Moroz said.

He told the conference that miners had contributed to the breakup of the Ukrainian economy by "rushing into politics."

Moroz cited a 12 decline in the coal output this year.

While the output was 230 million tonnes in the mid-1980s, it was only 95 million last year, Moroz said.

He forecast that the coal sector would not pick up in the nearest years as the Ukrainian government has no specific programme to stabilise it.

Economic Course Called 'Pragmatic'

964K0006A Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 5 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Volodymyr Ryzhov, assistant to the president of Ukraine on industrial matters, by Alla Nosova; place and date not given: "More Pragmatism

Is Needed in the Actual Conditions of Commodity Production"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nosova] Volodymyr Leonidovych, the concept of "correcting the course of reforms" has become the subject of much controversy following the conference of economists. Please describe the nature of these changes for us.

[Ryzhov] I do not regard the expression "course correction" as very apt. Basically, the goal is to achieve financial recovery. This policy has remained the same since it was first announced. But there must be more to it than restricting the growth of the money supply. It is necessary to create institutions in our country that will enable enterprises to operate through the period of attaining financial recovery.

If we do not learn to differentiate between the inflation of demand and the inflation of costs, if we confine ourselves exclusively to monetary measures to fend off inflation brought in from outside, we should not expect to triumph. Another factor that needs to be taken into account is that many people refuse to recognize that the principal taxpayer must be the private citizen and not the enterprise. At present, in our country, the principal taxpayers are enterprises. Personal income taxes account for an insignificant portion in budget formation. This being the situation, we must admit honestly that the population's low purchasing power does not allow us to create credit, let alone investment, resources needed for industrial growth.

[Nosova] Who will ultimately be given priority—industrial workers or monetarists?

[Ryzhov] What kind of priorities can there be? What we need is healthy pragmatism. We must reject all ideologisms. We can talk a great deal about the advantages of the Harvard or the Chicago schools, or, for example, of neo-Keynesianism, but what good will this do us? Healthy pragmatism must win out in our approach to economic changes.

[Nosova] And, obviously, taking into account the situation in the country?

[Ryzhov] That is absolutely correct. We talk today about the mountain of interenterprise debt. Let us take a closer look at the reasons for nonpayment. Do they stem solely from the fact that the structure of our national product is imperfect? Of course not, although we should not overlook this. Why should we not try "smelting" interenterprise debt into shares in enterprises that are to be privatized? Production that has been delivered but not paid for could be regarded as an investment into a newly created joint-stock company and it could be paid for in shares. This is an example of pure pragmatism. There are those who oppose this solution to the problem, but there are also plenty of those who support it. Here, again, ideologisms prevent us from pursuing this course. Thus, the "correction of the economic course" will mean more pragmatism in the actual conditions of commodity production.

[Nosova] The question of "targeted assistance to enterprises" was again raised at the economic conference. What does this mean in practice? Will we "drain" the budget again?

[Ryzhov] We must all remember that the state has no money. So it is useless getting in line to wait for assistance from the state. But the state can and will support those promising enterprises that define the structure of industry.

[Nosova] Do you mean metallurgical and chemical enterprises?

[Ryzhov] I would not say so. First and foremost, I think these will be enterprises that ensure our energy independence and enterprises working in the field of import-replacing technologies.

Let us take a closer look at the problem of the military-industrial complex (VPK). It is customary to believe that it drained the nation's funds. But there is also another view: The military-industrial complex formed the core of scientific-technical research, which subsequently flowed to all sectors, even as far as into the creation of new generations of household appliances. Thus, one can talk of the military-industrial complex as an industrial Moloch, or one can state with certainty that it was a test range for advanced science and technologies, which after a while found practical application in civilian sectors. Consequently, industry's priorities will be those things that give a hundredfold return to the people. And it is to these leading sectors that the state will give "targeted assistance." These sectors are, first and foremost, the production of special alloys and new materials, certain types of antennas, aircraft engines, rockets. By supporting these sectors, we can expect our economy to obtain a hundredfold return in new technologies.

[Nosova] Volodymyr Leonidovych, regarding aircraft engines. In your view, what is the situation with respect to privatization at Motor-Sich?

[Ryzhov] There was a rather sensible aspect to their privatization plan: It involved reserving a portion of shares to be owned by the state until a new generation of aircraft engines was developed. Once these engines had been put into production, this block of shares was to go to the group that had developed the engines. But this group of authors was expanded to include all plant employees. They came up with a good idea, but then failed to implement it. I believe that intellectual capital should have been turned into shares. It would be logical for Motor-Sich to reconsider its position and do what had been originally planned. This was a rational solution. If, however, this is yet another attempt to squander accumulated capital through unsuccessful privatization, such reforms are senseless.

[Nosova] Was there not talk a few months ago about Motor-Sich also becoming part of an industrial-financial group?...

[Ryzhov] Thus far, we have only declarations on this subject. The law on industrial-financial groups has only gone through a second reading. Such a law was not passed in Russia, and a presidential edict is in force. Nor have the laws themselves been coordinated thus far. As I understand it, our law is sounder because it is based on the commodity principle.

[Nosova] Our law on industrial-financial groups is almost ready; are there any substantial reservations?

[Ryzhov] In my opinion, the main objections stem from the fact that the final version of this document was passed by people who do not work in enterprises or banks. Tell me, if you will, why is it that an industrial-financial group can only be served by one bank? Throughout the world, capital from many banks is consolidated to organize one serious investment. In the case of a transnational group, whose bank will serve it? Thus, there need to be small, but substantial corrections to this law.

[Nosova] Speaking at the "Market Reforms" press club, you made some interesting observations regarding foreign investments in our industry and the participation of foreign companies in the privatization of this sector. It would be interesting to hear if your views on these matters remain the same.

[Ryzhov] You know, it is of no interest to me whatsoever if our shoe industry is bought out by the Italians or the Portuguese. They are probably the best shoe manufacturers in the world. We can only benefit from this. Our footwear will be remain wearable both before and after rain. But let us look at this problem from another angle. There are enterprises that determine the structure of our industry, and the operation of hundreds of other enterprises in Ukraine depend on them. We have to be very careful about the participation of foreign privatizers in the case of such enterprises. One thing is certain: We will not be able to reorganize the structure of our industry without foreign capital. This fact is self-evident. We have no money of our own. Correcting the structure of the national product alone requires an investment of $37-40 billion. Yet if you look at the draft budget for next year, you will see that the planned redistribution into industrial sectors through the budget is set in the amount of $1.5 billion.

Privatization by voucher yields a zero return. It produces no funds for the renewal of production. Let us look at the situation at the Mykolyiv Alumina Plant from this perspective. But, first, I would like everyone to understand one thing: If there is no aluminum in Ukraine, there will be no industry here. Let us say that the Zaporizhzhya Aluminum Combine produces one-quarter of the aluminum we need. The Mykolayiv Alumina Plant was built together with the Bratsk Aluminum Combine in Russia. The Mykolayiv Alumina Plant can meet Ukraine's demand for aluminum by supplying Bratsk with alumina and obtaining aluminum in return. How are these two enterprises, which are now located in different countries, to be linked together? Only by exchanging blocks of stock. It is difficult to find another way. On the other hand, we must develop our own aluminum industry. The Zaporizhzhya Aluminum Combine has a development program that anticipates doubling its production of aluminum. But we face the issue of increasing alumina production by expanding and rebuilding the Mykolayiv Alumina Plant. Where are we to get the money for all this? According to modest estimates, this requires up to $260 million. We must find a partner who will obtain a portion of shares in this deal. Nonetheless, I firmly believe that the state must retain at least 40 percent of Mykolayiv Alumina Plant stock in the course of privatization. This block of stock is enough to ensure a reliable and steady production of aluminum and will prevent other shareholders from making decisions to the detriment of Ukraine. The remaining shares can be turned over to the labor collective, to lessees. But 50 percent will go to those who provide funds for reconstruction. It is natural that decisions about investors are better accepted by tender, as is done elsewhere in the world.

[Nosova] Can we expect that with this more pragmatic approach to economic reforms the situation in our country will normalize?

[Ryzhov] When our president talks about a course correction, he has in mind pragmatic steps in all our reforms. Take out a kopek, put back two. If you do not know how to do this, give up your post and someone who does know will fill it.

[Nosova] Some directors of large enterprises, clearly, already see themselves as owners, while others cannot find themselves either in the past or in the future?...

[Ryzhov] Generally speaking, businessmen make up only about 10 percent in any country. You know, individual inept directors find it hard to leave their posts.

[Nosova] Should we not get rid of useless personnel in some way?

[Ryzhov] This is extremely difficult to do here. You have raised the most painful issue—the personnel issue. Some time ago, the president issued an edict on renegotiating contracts with enterprise directors. This contract has to reflect economic indicators, in accordance with which the professional aptitude of a director is to be determined. These include profit norms on invested capital or changes in the degrees of an enterprise's liquidity, current liquidity, future liquidity. But this edict is not being carried out. Month after month, requests keep coming in to postpone the deadline for renegotiating contracts. I can cite another example. There is a presidential edict regarding the fact that privatized enterprises in which a portion of the shares is owned by the state will be managed by a personally authorized individual, who will be responsible for performance effectiveness. A statute on this kind of manager has been written, but in practice the implementation of this edict is being universally sabotaged. Thus, we have to change management methods. That is why, speaking at the All-Ukrainian Conference of Economists, the president stated that we must impose a corporate structure on our enterprises under all circumstances. Even if the state owns 100 percent of the shares, the finances of state-owned enterprises must be divided.

Our tax laws hamper management effectiveness. Compared with today's levies, Batu Khan was a very generous man. I had the opportunity to familiarize myself with the review of cases involving taxes conducted by the Supreme Council commission headed by V. Cherep. Take, for example, the Smila Machine-building Plant. A tax of more than 70 percent has been imposed on this enterprise. A businessmen cannot and will not work under such conditions.

[Nosova] Does this mean that we are again on the threshold of tax reform?

[Ryzhov] Tax reform is already under way. This is a paradox, but this reform began from below. Even though we refuse to understand this. Enterprises and citizens do their best to avoid paying exorbitant taxes into the budget. We still have the oppressive "Soviet" value-added tax. This is a calamity that does nothing but cause inflation. To be sure, this tax constitutes the bulk of budget revenues, but these are progressively shrinking. In addition, this tax simply forces industry to manufacture goods with a low level of processing.

Many directors of enterprises turn to me regarding the imposition of a land tax for industrial enterprises. Under the standards of the old Union, our industrial enterprises were built on large sites. No one worried about the price of land at that time. Why do these enterprises now have to bear the burden of an exorbitant land tax?

The conclusion to be drawn from these examples is that everything we do must be calculated through far into the future. It is particularly important to anticipate the social consequences of innovations.

[Nosova] It seems to me that you and the people around you have the power to influence those who hinder reforms.

[Ryzhov] Unfortunately, no. You cannot put a supervisor over every person involved in carrying out reforms.

[Nosova] Volodymyr Danylovych, can you tell us something even modestly hopeful about the future of industry in concluding this conversation?

[Ryzhov] Clearly, we are currently being saved by ferrous metallurgy and chemistry. They are the donors that allow us to exist. The Kremenchuk Automobile Plant [KrAZ] is slowly reviving. Shipbuilding will not die. We will boost aviation and rockets. I do not know what will happen to electronics.... We are overly ideology- ridden. The country has no money, yet we do everything, as if in spite, to make sure that no money comes in. If Ukraine focused on creating a kind of offshore banking center, we would see credit and investment resources for industry flowing in!

Either we all remain equally poor for a long time, or we begin growing rich in turn and not push off the ladder those who are above us and who are richer.

Belarus

Premier Says NATO Negotiations Must Include Russia

WS2010125095 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1900 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Video report by A. Tsimashenka on Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir's 19 October meeting with NATO delegation]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Begin Chyhir recording in Russian] I would not say that today we held negotiations specifically on the Partnership for Peace program. I rather consider the NATO delegation's visit as a reconnaissance trip aimed at finding out our opinion about the Partnership for Peace program and our standpoint on the issue of expanding NATO. In essence, we said that Belarus, which was the most damaged country in World War II, is interested perhaps more than any other state in establishing a system which would guarantee European security. We underscored our opinion about accomplishing that process through bilateral and multilateral negotiations. I think that even if certain states retain their right to participate in various kinds of structures that ensure their security, if we want all the European states to be confident about their security, those negotiations by all means must be attended by neighboring states, primarily Russia. Therefore, we support a dialogue and negotiations, and we stated that at today's meeting. [end recording]

Minsk Opposes NATO Expansion to East

LD2010120495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 20 Oct 95

[By Aleksandr Lyushkevich]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, October 20 (Itar-Tass) — Belarus does not see any need for NATO expansion, said republican Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Sannikaw at a meeting with a delegation of the North Atlantic Alliance led by assistant of NATO Secretary-General Gebhardt von Moltke.

The delegation arrived in Minsk to inform the Belarusian side of a recent decision on a possible admission of new members to the alliance.

Sannikow quoted several examples which, in his opinion, do not tally with the concept for NATO expansion. The main aim declared by NATO is that Europe should be indivisible.

Taking into account a supposition that not all European countries will join the allinace, its expansion, on the contrary, will lead to Europe's division.

Moreover, if East European countries join NATO, a huge disbalance of military force will develop: on the one hand, the NATO bloc, on the other — states of the Commonwealth of Independent States which will lag considerably behind a renewed alliance in some positions.

Will it mean that European security will be stronger in that case?

On his part, von Moltke noted that states which expressed a desire to join NATO, mean, above all, the process of economic, political and military integration. Therefore, their natural desire to be members of the alliance is understandable.

Lukashenka Attacks Abuses by Former Officials

LD2010150995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, October 20 (Itar-Tass) — President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka met on Friday representatives of organisations of war veterans.

During the meeting, Lukashenka said that the recent resignation of "power" ministries' officials was linked with the misuse of their positions.

Lukashenka explained that he means former Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy, who was relieved of his duties in summer, and Yuriy Zakharenka, who left the post of the Interior Minister a few days ago.

"These people had an insatiable appetite for everything," Lukashenka said. "They did not fulfil my demand of turning their face toward the unfortunate people. They got involved in usurping flats, enriching relatives and established contacts with commercial structures," he said.

'About 20' Regional Police Chiefs Arrested for Extortion

LD2210100295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following an appointment of the new Belarusian interior minister, about 20 high-ranking policemen have been arrested in the regions almost simultaneously, mainly for bribery and extortion.

[Correspondent A. Stupnikov] In Kolodichi near Minsk, the head of the local police and his deputy were arrested. They both acted as racketeers on behalf of a local businessman who wanted repayment of a debt of $9,000 owed to him by another businessman. The police chief and his accomplice arrested the debtor and kept him under arrest. They were assisted by an invited fitness fan who beat the debtor. As a result, the amount of the alleged debt had increased to $16,000.

This is the first time that Interior Ministry staff members in Belarus have used their posts so openly in their laborious racket. They had no fear of punishment, thinking that if they have an umbrella they do not need brains. This is how things are now.

Aleksandr Stupnikov, Minsk. Belarus.

Moldova

Protesters Announce Break To Gather More Supporters

AU2110210295 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2200 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 20/10/1995 (BASAPRESS) — The protests of students, pupils, and teaching staff continued this morning. Police reported that 3,000 people participated. The negotiations scheduled for today did not take place, due to the illness of the head of the presidential commission. The talks will resume on Monday, 23 October.

Oleg Cernei, the chairman of the Students League, said at the meeting that earlier that he addressed all political formations that support the protest actions to join the strike. Representatives of the Democratic Forces Alliance and the Christian Democratic Youth Organization spoke today in Piata Marii Adunari Nationale [Square of the Great National Assembly] at the invitation of the strike committee.

Lidia Istrati, chairman of Christian Democratic Women's League (CDWL), said the CDWL supports strikers' demands. "When a government does not implement the adopted laws, is unable to cope with social problems, and adopts illegal laws and decisions, it has to resign. If it does not, one gets the impression that the government keeps the Parliament in its pocket," Lidia Istrati declared.

Valeriu Matei, chairman of the Democratic Forces Party, said at the meeting that his party has already demanded government resignation. The strike committee leaders announced a two-day break, during which supplementary forces from Moldovan villages and districts will be gathered.

The strike will resume Monday, 23 October, at 1000. Today at the strike committee meeting, its chairman, Anatol Petrencu, stressed that all forces should unite so that all sections of the population participate in the strike. Petrencu mentioned that on Monday the strike committee will ask deputy speaker Dumitru Motpan to alter the parliamentary agenda and include in it a report on government activity.

Accord Reached on Destroying 14th Army Ammunition

LD2010211295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1942 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TIRASPOL, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — Igor Smirnov, resident of the self-proclaimed Transdniester Moldovan Republic, said the issue of destroying the former 14th Army's outdated armaments will be resolved.

An Interfax correspondent reports that speaking at the Transdniester parliament session Friday, Smirnov said an agreement on destroying the former 14th Army ammunition was reached during a recent meeting in Moscow between a Transdniester delegation and Russian Defense Ministry officials.

Smirnov said that the Russian Defense Ministry supports Tiraspol's stand on the need to maintain a peacekeeping force and a limited number of Russian troops in the region.

According to him, Moscow favors the continuation of talks between Chisinau and Tiraspol on the peaceful settlement of the conflict and is prepared to provide further assistance as a mediator.

Smirnov said that a Transdniester delegation will visit Moscow again soon to put forward proposals for cooperation in concrete areas, including the creation of joint ventures which he characterized as the most efficient form of economic cooperation with Russian partners.

Russian Air-Defense Center in Transdniester Featured

LD2110223795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Oct 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today not a single army in the world can exist without solid anti-aircraft defenses. This has been especially clearly shown by the latest events in Bosnia.

The operational group of Russian troops in the Transdniester region still has such defense capabilities. To reach the main center of airspace monitoring one must descend several floors below ground and walk though a maze of corridors guarded by soldiers. All this was constructed during Soviet times and is still working faultlessly. It is the existence of this center that annoys many NATO experts. It is here that the Russian military are monitoring the huge airspace which includes Moldova, as well as parts of Romania and Ukraine.

According to the officers, in the last two months the number of airspace violations in the area under their control has multiplied. In August there was an unprecedented incident when two Moldovan helicopters flew around Russian munition stores and carried out a mock assault troops landing. The activity of the airforces from neighboring states has also considerably increased. For example, between 2 and 4 October a total of 54 aircraft of the Romanian airforce carried out flights along the Moldovan border. However, few dare to enter the firing range of the Russian air-defense forces. And for a reason. Antiaircraft defense experts here are considered to be one of the best among the land troops of the Russian army. For the past three years they came out first at state firing competitions in Russia.

[V. Makhrov, commander of the antiaircraft missile regiment — identified by caption] This is due to the fact that the regiment has 90 percent of the necessary personnel, and about 45 percent of the regiment's servicemen are professionals.

[Correspondent] However, soon this strong antiaircraft defens system could become considerably weaker. We have been told by the operational group that the Russian Defens Ministry plans to drastically reduce the number of antiaircraft defense units in this area.

Experts believe that this will cause irreparable damage to their combat readiness. Therefore officers bitterly joke here that Americans spent 13 Tomahawk missiles and made hundreds of sorties to destroy a much weaker antiaircraft defense system of the Bosnian Serbs, while here this is done with a single signature. But according to the latest information, Valeriy Yevnevich, the new commander of the operational group, is planning to ask the Defense Minister to cut none of the most combat-ready units of the Russian army. [Video shows air-defense center, equipment]

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Issues Decree on Government Structure

LD1910220995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1603 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 19 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — A decree on the structure of the government of Kazakhstan was signed today by the president of the country Nursultan Nazarbayev. Henceforth it will be consist of a prime minister, his deputies, head of the government apparatus, 21 ministers and nine chairmen of state committees. Only five ministries were assigned with new heads — ministries for internal affairs, defence, social protection of the population, construction, ecology and biological resources. Earlier heads of six out of 19 regions were changed.

The president also issued a decree on improving the structure of central executive organs. According to this document some of them have become independent and others have been moved to relevant ministries and state committees. The headquarters of civil defence of the republic, therefore, becomes a subunit of the re-created state committee for emergency situations. The agency for atomic energy and the national space agency will henceforth become part of the ministry for science and new technology.

This decree instructs the government to reduce the number of personnel in central executive bodies by not less than 20 per cent, local organs of power by nine per cent and to enhance supervision over state expenditure for their maintenance.

Completes Government Reshuffle

LD2010184195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — With the appointment of Sagynbek Tursunov as head of the presidential staff Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev completed his reshuffle of the country's leadership. Tursunov used to be the Kazakh ambassador to Germany and Austria. He replaced Nurtay Abykayev, appointed ambassador to Britain.

Nazarbayev told a Friday briefing in Almaty that he approved all the structural changes in the cabinet suggested by Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin and appointed new ministers of defense, justice, interior, social security, construction, and environmental protection. The president said one third of provincial leaders were also replaced.

He accounted for the reshuffle by the need for rapid implementation of economic reforms and the adoption of a new constitution on August 30.

Nazarbayev spoke of signs of macroeconomic stabilization in Kazakhstan. He named rapid privatization as the main task for the rest of 1995 and for 1996.

U.S. Mobil, Russian LUKoil To Join Tengiz Oil Project

MK2010114295 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Tutushkin: "Redistribution of Kazakhstan's Oil Is Looming"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The deadlock situation with the development of the Tengiz oil field in Kazakhstan (one of the largest in the world, with extractable resources of about 1 billion tonnes) has prompted the participants in the project to think about having some "fresh blood" infused into it. Preliminary negotiations on giving shares in the project to "LUKoil," a Russian company, and Mobil of the United States are now under way.

A feasibility study of Tengiz deposit's joint development by the Chevron company and the USSR Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry was prepared on the initiative of Mikhail Gorbachev as far back as early 1990. The Americans resumed talks in October 1992 but this time already with Kazakhstan. In 1993, "Tengizshevroil," a Kazakhstani-U.S. joint venture, was set up, with a parity participation of the sides ($10 billion each). At present, its oil production only amounts to 60,000 barrels a day, which is about equal to Kazakhstan's quota for oil shipment through Russian active export oil pipelines (3 million tonnes a year). It was supposed that the problem would be solved by a new oil pipeline from Tengiz to the Black Sea, which was to be built by the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC), comprising Russia, Kazakhstan, and Oman. It has become obvious now, however, that Oman, which assumed the funding of the project, cannot cope with it. Now, to get things moving, the Kazakhstani Government, to all appearances, is ready to accept new powerful participants in the project. As KOMMERSANT-DAILY learned, "LUKoil" President Vagit Alekperov visited Kazakhstan in early October. He negotiated with President Nursultan Nazarbayev and leaders of "Tengizshevroil" about his company joining the joint venture. According to our sources in "LUKoil," this idea was positively taken by the sides. So far there has been no talk about the share of participation, but it is clear that if a share is indeed allotted, it will mainly be given from the Kazakhstani part of the deal (Chevron will hardly give up much, if at all). Quite probably, if the Russian company joins the project, this will alter the stance of the Russian Federation government, which until now has been rejecting Chevron's insistent attempts to join the CPC in approximately the same role that Oman was to play. Another optional solution of the oil export problem can be the construction of an oil pipeline with the participation of Chevron, Mobil, Agip, British Gas, and "LUKoil." This proposal has been recently sent by Kazakhstan's Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry to the Fuel and Energy Ministry of the Russian Federation. The presence of Mobil on the list is symptomatic: As the FINANCIAL TIMES reported a few days ago, this company is also conducting negotiations with the Kazakhstani Government on purchasing its share in the project. Obviously, while in the case of "LUKoil" Kazakhstan is going after good graces of the Russian Government, Mobil is regarded as merely a new source of money.

Tajikistan

'Opposition' Kills 3 Servicemen, Wounds Others

LD2310140795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dushanbe, 23 Oct [ITAR-TASS] — Three Tajik Defense Ministry servicemen were killed and eight seriously wounded in a clash with an armed opposition group in Tavildara District in the Pamir area. According to military sources, the incident took place during a military operation carried out by a squad of government forces aimed at eliminating criminal groups and confiscating illegal arms held by the population.

A senior officer of the Tajik Security Ministry told ITAR-TASS that Tajik opposition fighters have sharply intensified their activities in the Pamir region over the past month. The number of attacks on government forces units, as well as on police officers, has increased. [passage omitted]

However, a spokesman for the Tajik armed opposition in the Pamir area claims that the government forces themselves force them to take retaliatory steps by carrying out wide-scale operations aimed at eliminating opposition forces, in violation of the cease-fire agreement reached in Tehran.

In a recent interview with Russian journalists, General Salam Mukhabattov, the leader of the armed opposition in the Pamir area, said "The current regime, which has an armed opposition in its own country, should take it into account, and try to find a common language and share power with it for the sake of peace and the interests of its own people. Power should not be concentrated in the hands of representatives from one region alone."

Two Officials Killed By 'Terrorists' Near Dushanbe

LD2110140595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 21 Oct 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, October 21 (Itar-Tass) — Deputy director of the Tadzikglavsnab firm Usmad Kholov and Police Captain Nabi Nazaraliev became another victims of unidentified terrorists on Saturday [21 October].

Their bodies with numerous gunshot wounds in the chest were found this morning in the Kofarnikhonsky district, 20 kilometres from the Tajik capital Dushanbe. Tajik police started an investigation into these murders.

Itar-Tass learnt at the republican Interior Ministry that an anti-government criminal group in the Kofarnikhonskiy district is possibly involved in the incident. Terrorists stepped up their operations in that region as well as in the Pamir areas of Tajikistan.

More than 20 policemen and local officials were killed by terrorists in the Kofarnikhonskiy district since the start of this year.

Russian Border Guard Posts Attacked in Tajikistan

LD2210093795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0909 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, October 22 (Itar-Tass) — Fire was opened twice on Russian border posts on the Pamir sector of the Tajik-Afghan border during the past 24 hours. The shots were fired from Afghan territory. Itar-Tass was told at the press centre of the Command of the Russian Borderguard Troops in Tajikistan that fire was opened in the evening of October 21 on the posts of Buni and Shipad, manned by servicemen from the Khorog borderguard detachment. The small arms fire was suppressed by retaliatory action. There were no casualties among the Russian soldiers.

Russian Borderguard Commander in Tajikistan Lieutenant-General Pavel Tarasenko said that fire was opened ten times over on Russian border posts from Afghan territory in the course of October. The number of such provocations has reached eighty since the beginning of the year.

UN Envoy Blames Russians, Government for Talks Delay

LD2210113295 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council announced its anxiety at the delay in the next round, the fifth round, of the inter-Tajik peace talks between the opposing sides and supported the European Community's announcement [urging both sides to agree on a venue for the next round]

The UN Security Council considered a report by Iqbal Riza, the special envoy of the UN secretary-general to Tajikistan. Iqbal Riza's report was about the regime's breaches of the peace agreement, the provocations and border violations [previous two words as heard] by the Russian Border Troops, and the economic, political, and social situation. Verified documents showing the crimes of the regime, supported by Russia, were presented by UN representatives in Tajikistan.

Opposition Refuses Talks on Military Captives

LD2010121295 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Military representatives of the Tajik regime are trying to find ways of holding talks with leaders of the Tajik opposition forces to secure the liberation of the 54 military prisoners. Islamic Rebirth Party representatives have announced that a government delegation, led by Defense Minister Sherali Khayrulloyev, has asked field commanders of the opposition military forces to meet their delegation for talks on the liberation of the prisoners, but the field commanders, on the order of the commander of the united opposition forces, has rejected the request of the regime's military delegation.

Armenia

Azerbajian Shelling on Northeastern Border Reported

NC2310114795 Yerevan SNARK in English 1001 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, October 23 (SNARK) — Azerbaijan continues to shoot at northeastern part of Armenia. Defensive positions of the Vahan village, Krasnoselsk region, were shelled by mortars, grenade launchers and large caliber machine guns on October 21. The Press Office of the Defense Ministry informed Snark that there were casualties. Armenian armed units retaliated to stop the fire.

A relative lull has been observed along the entire Armeno-Azeri border on October 22 and this morning.

'No Agreement' Reached in Karabakh Negotiations

NC2010222495 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0851 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Helsinki ("AZG" daily — Past), 10/18/95 — Participants of negotiations on resolution of the Karabakh conflict declared on 17 October they are happy about the negotiations, though no agreement was reached about any of topical problems.

In fact, the negotiations concentrated on military-technical problems. According to one of the participants, "there was little progress" as a result of negotiations, and they can be considered as a "good meeting".

Political problems will be discussed in Moscow next month. OSCE hopes that sufficient progress will be reached in some problems after the meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers, to be held in Budapest in December.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev On Ties With U.S., Pipeline Route, Karabakh

NC2010203095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri at 1640 GMT on 20 Oct 95 carries a recorded report on Azerbaijan President Heydar Aliyev's news conference at Istanbul's Ataturk airport on 20 October on his way to New York.

Replying to a question on upcoming parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, Aliyev says that the elections will be "an important and momentous event in the history of Azerbaijan." Aliyev adds a democratic election law was adopted to ensure democratic elections. Aliyev explains that 31 parties have been registered by the Justice Ministry. Of this, 18 parties announced readiness to run in the elections. And of this, only 12 submitted the 50,000 signature each needed to gain the right to run in the elections. He adds that the Central Election Commission is now looking into the documents of these 12 parties and 1070 candidates. Those parties and candidates whose documents are in order will be allowed to run in the elections. He says those candidates who feel their rights are violated could apply to the Central Election Commission and they could still be registered by 25 October. He adds that in case of negative reply from the Central Election Commission the candidates could apply to the courts and still enter the elections five days before they take place. Aliyev adds: "This is the first time that free elections are being held in Azerbaijan. Our, and my basic aim as Azerbaijan's president, is to see the election of a democratic parliament in which every Azerbaijani political force is represented."

Aliyev also says that the draft constitution is now submitted for public discussion and will be adopted during a referendum to be held at the same time as the parliamentary elections on 12 November.

Asked to comment on the content of talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York, Aliyev replies: "As you know, a very good rapport has developed between myself and the U.S. President. We exchange letters and receive each other's representatives. I met with Clinton a year ago in New York and we held very interesting and important talks. Now, I will again meet Bill Clinton. Some days ago, Mr. Clinton sent me a letter which extensively touched upon Azerbaijani-U.S. relations, the joint exploitation of oil resources in Azerbaijan's Caspian sector and oil export routes to the West; as well as on the development of democracy in Azerbaijan. I replied to that letter. Later on, Bill Clinton's representative Mr. Brzezinskiy arrived in Baku. I also held talks with him. The military conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia was one of the basic problems mentioned in Mr. Clinton's letter. That is, there were proposals and views as regards Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. I believe that these issues will be the basic theme of our talks."

Asked if Clinton's letter included any proposal on the oil route, Aliyev says: "Let me first tell you that as you know we adopted a very important decision on the export of Azerbaijani oil. In its meeting on 9 October in Baku, the consortium, formed by foreign oil companies and the Azerbaijani State Oil Company — that very same consortium with which we signed a major oil contract on 20 September 1994 — [changes thought] This consortium has been in operation for the last year and has accomplished many important tasks, and we will be able to start producing the early oil at the end of the

1996 thanks to the activity of this consortium. We have been searching for ways to export oil. There were various alternatives. Various countries had different preferences. We extensively debated this issue. I also took into consideration my consultations with the Turkish president my dear friend and brother Suleyman Demirel and Turkish Prime Minister esteemed Tansu Ciller. I also took into consideration Bill Clinton's views. The Russian leaders, and personally Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, too had written letters to me on this issue. All these were studied and we adopted a very important decision on two pipelines. One to the Black Sea via Georgia, and one to the Black Sea via Russia. This decision was also much appreciated in Turkey, as it fully meets Turkey's interests too. This decision was appreciated in Baku and in the West. We consider this a very important decision. The adoption of this decision was not that easy. The path leading to it was a very difficult one, but we traversed it and adopted this decision."

Asked if they also took into consideration that one of the routes poses a threat to Istanbul, Aliyev says: "As you know the pipeline will not cross the Straits. The pipeline should go to Ceyhan. That will be the big pipeline. That one will go to Ceyhan. Is up to you what you allow or not allow through the Istanbul Straits. That is your business. Our aim is to lay the pipeline to Ceyhan via Turkey. This is your wish and desire. In saying this I am expressing your wishes."

Asked if he will refer to efforts to bring an end to the war in Chechnya in his UN address, Aliyev replies: "As you know, there is a difficult war situation in Chechnya and the international community and big powers are trying to resolve it, and the OSCE is seriously preoccupied with this issue. They are trying to resolve those problems. We do not need to be involved there. We ourselves have a major problem of our own. Our main problem is Nagorno- Karabakh; the problem of Armenia occupying the Azerbaijani territories. As I said, more than one million of your brothers and sisters have become refugees; 20 percent of the Azerbaijani lands have been occupied, Armenia is an aggressor. This is the basic problem for us. I know that Turkey shares Azerbaijan's sorrow on this issue and is preoccupied with this issue. And, we, together with you, with Turkey and other states, want to solve this problem peacefully within the OSCE Minsk Group. As you know, this war has been going on for more that seven years between Armenia and Azerbaijan. On 12 May 1994 a cease-fire agreement was signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Now for the last 17 months there has been no fighting. This is the first such event in the 7-year- long war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. However, we secured the cease-fire in order to resolve the problem peacefully. We want peace, we do not want to wage war. However, at the same time, we want the complete liberation of our occupied lands. We are holding talks on the condition that Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, the inviolability of the Azerbaijani borders, the unconditional liberation of the occupied lands, and the return of the Azerbaijani citizens to their domiciles be ensured."

Favors Azeri-Turkish Oil Pipeline

LD2110164995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Oct 21 (Interfax) — Baku is interested in constructing a strategic oil pipeline which would go from Azerbaijan through Turkey to Turkey's Djeihan port on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev said at the Istanbul airport (Turkey), where he stopped Friday on his way to New York where the U.N. General Assembly holds its anniversary session.

Diplomats in Baku told Interfax that Turkey supported the idea of constructing such a pipeline.

Aliyev said he saw as very important the recent decision to establish a parallel route for transporting first Azerbaijani oil through Georgia and Russia. Aliyev said the decision had been made taking into consideration the position of the Russian, U.S. and Turkish leadership. He said he had received letters from the Turkish president and prime minister, the U.S. president and the Russian prime minister shortly before this decision was made.

Information Minister Resigns To Stand For Parliament

LD2010212495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Oct 20 (Interfax) — Azerbaijani Press and Information Minister Sabir Rustemhanli announced on Friday that he was resigning. Explaining the motives for his decision, Rustemhanli told a news conference in Baku that he will stand for parliament at a November 12 election.

Yet a source in his ministry told Interfax the true reason for his intended resignation was the outcome of a court trial of journalists from the Cesme newspaper, who were sentenced on Thursday to prison terms of two to five years for publishing jokes on political subjects.

The minister at the same news conference branded the trial as "antidemocratic" and an instance of "the open persecution of journalists."

Karabakh Foreign Minister Says Talks Still Snagged

LD2010211695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] STEPANAKERT, Oct 20 (Interfax) — Nagorno Karabakh Foreign Minister Arkady Gukasyan said in Stepanakert today that conflicting parties refuse to compromise on the question of settlement in Karabakh.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a self-proclaimed republic on Azerbaijani territory.

Regarding the results of corresponding talks in Finland, Gukasyan said some progress had been made in work on a wide-scale political agreement. However, Gukasyan declined to elaborate on this progress.

Gukasyan said the talks snagged on the status of occupied territories (Shusha and Lachin), the return of refugees, the removal of the communications blockade and the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Gukasyan said he doubted that the political agreement would be signed by the end of this year, in particular by the session of the OSCE Council of Ministers.

Gukasyan said: "Azerbaijan is not ready for compromises," blaming a delay in the signing of the political agreement on Baku.

National Independence Party Threatens Boycott

NC2010220595 Baku TURAN in English 1313 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku 20/10/95 TURAN — "If within 3 days the Central Election Commission [CEC] does not explain why it refused to register most of candidates from our party we will refuse from participation in the parliamentary elections," TURAN was told by Etibar Mamedov, the leader of the Azerbaijan's Party of National Independence. According to him, only 28 candidates were registered out of 78 forwarded candidates of the party according to majority vote. The CEC refuses to explain the reason of refusal in registration.

National Statehood Party Accused of Falsifying List

NC2010211895 Baku TURAN in English 1207 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku 20/10/95 TURAN — "The experts of the Central Election Commission found numerous facts of falsification of signatures of electors by the party of National State system [National Statehood Party], but was registered", the head of the press-centre, plenipotentiary representative of this party in the Central Election Commission, Tofig Aliyev, told Turan's correspondent.

Tofig Aliyev said October 18 after checking of signature lists, the member of the Central Election Commission, Anvar Seidov, told him there are many falsified signatures among 57,000. Seidov was against registration of the party. "Everything has been decided by the chairman of the Central Election Commission, Jafar Veliyev, who turned a blind eye to violations of law and registered the party of National State system", Tofig Aliyev said.

Due to this fact Tofig Aliyev appealed to all electors to boycott Parliamentary elections November 12, 1995. He thinks numerous facts of violations of law and falsification mean impossibility of conduction of democratic and free elections. "I told the administration that the success of the party at the elections must be considered as falsification and cheap victory. I told that to the chairman of the party, Neymat Panahov, too", President [Tofig] Aliyev pointed out.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Cancels Trip to New York

LD2210221895 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1854 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Report on news conference with Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state and chairman of the State Council by unidentified correspondent in Tbilisi on 21 October; monitored in progress — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Shevardnadze] "...It is very unfortunate, but it seems that [Igor] Giorgadze [former Georgian security chief] enjoys the protection of powerful and influential forces. At a time when the main organizer of terrorist acts — not one act, but several acts — remains at large and those on whose orders he was acting have only retreated to the background, I am sure that to leave the country even for a few days could be a fatal error. One should also take account of the election campaign.

"Citizens of Georgia have made repeated appeals for the postponement of my visit to New York, probably, until the 100th UN anniversary. [laughs] In this connection, the statement from the executive council of the Union of Citizens should also be taken into account. You know the content of the statement. Other political forces have not issued statements, but individual leaders have met me and expressed the opinion that to leave the country at this time would not only be inexpedient but also inadmissible.

"It is very unfortunate that very important meetings, above all, a meeting with the U.S. President will not take place. As far as I know, Mr. President and his staff were preparing for this meeting in earnest, and so was I, of course. There should have also been meetings with business leaders, prominent statesmen, heads of state, and many other events. I was planning to meet President Yeltsin and my other colleagues as well.

"However, I believe that the most important thing for the country today is stability and holding the elections in normal conditions. As I said more than once before, all citizens of Georgia should be given the opportunity to freely express their will in the presidential and parliamentary elections. Taking any risks at a time like this would be unjustified, if not careless.

"This is my statement and my answer to the question why Shevardnadze did not go to New York."

[Correspondent] A journalist has just asked Shevardnadze about his opinion regarding a recently-forged alliance between Igor Giorgadze's father [Panteleimon Giorgadze, presidential candidate, chairman of the United Communist Party] and Jumber Patiashvili [presidential candidate, former first secretary of the Central Committee of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic Communist Party]. Shevardnadze was also asked if Russian-Georgian relations would be affected by the fact that despite the existence of a warrant for Igor Giorgadze's arrest, Russia had failed to cooperate in this matter.

[Shevardnadze] "I did not want our meeting to deal with the election campaign.

"I cannot say that their alliance was the main reason for the cancellation of my visit, but it has given me food for thought. I think it deserves thoughtful consideration. I did not think that Patiashvili would be so shortsighted. His alliance with Panteleimon Giorgadze is ruinous for him and for Georgia. If, God forbid, this alliance achieves any success, it would be absolutely devastating and ruinous for Georgia. Judging by what I have read about this pair and what I heard about them in Kutaisi, Zugdidi, and elsewhere, I can say that if we accept their platform, it will mean a return to the road of neo-Bolshevism and a repetition of the events of 1924, 1937, 1948, and so on. This is a road to totalitarianism, a road to the April tragedy [the 1989 killing of pro-independence demonstrators in Tbilisi].

"I had to say it because I was asked this question. I think that the citizens of Georgia will understand everything.

"I did not expect Patiashvili to join this movement, the most retrograde Bolshevik movement, because Panteleimon Giorgadze's house was the venue for two meetings during which a terrorist act — the attack on the head of state — was planned. You know what the consequences of that attack could have been. It is either shortsightedness or complicity. I have no other explanation for this alliance.

"What I have told you does not apply to communists in general. We have made no attempt to ban — although such things have happened in other countries — Panteleimon Giorgadze's United Communist Party, for example. We had grounds for doing this, considering his statements in Russia, which were insulting to Georgia and were directed against Georgia's independence and freedom. However, we have made no attempt to ban his party.

"As regards the other communist party that includes [MPs] Shalva Berianidze, Akaki Bregadze, Anzor Charkseliani, and others, we have been cooperating very well in parliament. If they are elected to the new parliament, if the people support them, then, of course, I — whatever my position is at the time — will cooperate with a communist party like this.

"I will also cooperate with the Stalinist party. We went to Gori together. There is no intrinsic contradiction in this. There is only one contradiction — the alliance which wants to legalize lawlessness and which may be linked to the events of 29 August.

"Now, your second question was about Georgian-Russian relations. We have put in a lot of effort and the two heads of state had to show special commitment and, if you wish, diplomatic and political wisdom in order to normalize Russian-Georgian relations and allow them to develop normally. We have succeeded in doing this. You will remember the comprehensive treaty that Boris Yeltsin and I signed here, Viktor Chernomyrdin's extremely productive visit to Georgia, my visit to Moscow and so on. Our cooperation is developing, especially the economic integration process. Let me assure you that the agreements we reached with Chernomyrdin are being implemented now.

"He and I did not even argue about the route for the oil pipeline — whether it should go only through Russia or only through Georgia. We agreed that either route or using both routes would be acceptable to us. I believe that Georgia has won. No one should underestimate the benefits and importance of this historic decision. However, Georgia did not win by damaging Russian interests. It won together with Russia, with Russian interests being taken into account, and thanks to the support of our friends — the United States, Turkey, and especially the leadership of Azerbaijan.

"Yesterday I received information that Chernomyrdin had decided to allocate 1,500 tonnes of grain for us. [passage omitted] He has also taken a decision allowing us to import 150,000-200,000 tonnes of grain from Russia. We agreed on this here, and the price is quite acceptable. Georgia can start implementing this agreement from today. It has also been decided to allocate 30 billion rubles for the purchase of our wine and wine ingredients. [passage omitted]

"I would like to say that we will not sacrifice Georgian-Russian relations for Giorgadze. If they want to have one or two more terrorists there, then let them have him." [passage omitted: Mkhedrioni militia member arrested in western Georgia]

[Correspondent] A journalist asks: Of course, Giorgadze enjoys protection in Moscow, but what is known about Yeltsin's position?

[Shevardnadze] "My latest [phone] conversation with the Russian president took place when I was in Mestia [in northwestern Georgia]. It was a very good conversation and it was held on his initiative. It was an expression of support from a friend following the terrorist act of 29 August. Unfortunately, I have had no opportunity to speak to him by telephone recently in order to explain to him the whole situation. However, we have sent the appropriate request to all other relevant authorities in Russia. The possibility of the Russian president knowing that the organizer of such serious terrorist acts is hiding in Moscow and of him remaining indifferent can be ruled out. I can rule this out. There must be some other reasons. What these reasons are will probably become clear after Mr. President returns from New York."

[Correspondent] A journalist asks: Russia is in no hurry to extradite Giorgadze, and, therefore, it is still dangerous for you to leave Georgia. How long is this situation going to last? For example, a CIS summit is scheduled for 3 November. Are you going to attend it?

[Shevardnadze] "I have to tell you that nothing can be ruled out. However, when I am here — although in New York I would have felt even safer because there would have been no danger there — all precautions are being taken to prevent a repetition of that [29 August attack]. I even think that these precautions are often excessive.

"As for the 3 November meeting, I will urge CIS heads of state to join forces in the fight against terrorism and mafia clans. I am sure that every head of state will support me. The first step in this direction has been taken by [Supreme Council Speaker] Vakhtang Goguadze. At a recent meeting of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg, he raised this question, and then the meeting issued a resolution to this effect. It is in the interests of every country, especially in the CIS, to fight terrorism vigorously."

[Correspondent] A journalist asks: At a recent news conference the defense minister [Vardiko Nadibaidze] said that he was going to propose the creation, with Russian involvement, of military forces from coalition member states in the Caucasus. [sentence as heard] In the future these forces are to form a single bloc with a common planning, supply, and command system. Is that the personal position of Nadibaidze or is it the position of the state?

[Shevardnadze] "I am not aware when he made such a statement about coalitions. What I can say is that there is one such treaty that Georgia has joined, and that is the CIS collective security treaty. This is a treaty that we have joined voluntarily. It does not diminish Georgia's independence and sovereignty and reflects the interests of all of us. How the collective security treaty will develop should be the subject of discussion among heads of state and should be decided by heads of state.

"The new Georgian Constitution says that all agreements of a military nature require ratification by parliament. This applies to all such agreements, both major and minor ones. As regards the creation of a bloc in the future, I have already expressed my opinion about it. I am categorically opposed to the creation of any blocs. It will lead us to Cold War, reducing many countries to poverty and destitution, including the initiators of the creation of such blocs."

[Gela Charkviani, Shevardnadze's interpreter, translating a question] "Do you possess information regarding specific plans making it dangerous for you to leave the country?" [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] "As I said, there would have been absolute security guarantees in New York. I want you to realize this. I think that there has been a report on one of Russia's TV channels saying that Shevardnadze is afraid of some sort of trouble occurring in New York. This is not true. There would have been no danger of a terrorist act either in New York or en route to and from New York. However, if I left the country, some serious trouble here such as a coup or an attempted coup could not be ruled out, and it cannot be ruled out when I leave the country in the future. This would be no better than a terrorist act against one man. That is why we are exercising vigilance and caution, and I think that we have sufficient grounds for doing so." [passage omitted: question and answer about the progress of money reform]

[Unidentified correspondent] "[Words indistinct] Irakli Batiashvili [former head of the Georgian Information and Intelligence Service] has said that Fedor Reut [commander of the Russian Group of Forces in the Transcaucasus] and Marusin, the then head of Russian military intelligence in the Transcaucasus, knew about the 29 August terrorist act in advance."

[Shevardnadze] "As regards Batiashvili's statement, I have had no opportunity of talking to him about it. It would be very interesting to know if he has any specific or material proof that would allow us to accuse these people. If that is the case, then I would be interested in gaining access to such material. I may meet him and discuss this matter with him."

[Correspondent] A journalist's question: Can the fact that Giorgadze left for Moscow from the airfield in Vaziani [the Russian military base outside Tbilisi] and that Marusin left for Moscow on the morning of 29 August and has not returned since, be used as evidence?

[Shevardnadze] "It is true that Giorgadze left from the airfield in Vaziani. However, it was not known at the time that he had organized and carried out the terrorist act. By the way, it was not the first time that Giorgadze and some other people had used the airfield in Vaziani. They were using it quite often in the past.

"As for Marusin, his rank was not high enough for me to have known his whereabouts or what he was doing. But following Batiashvili's statement I took an interest in this matter. He left for Moscow long before the terrorist act and was subsequently enrolled at a military academy there. Therefore, he was not here at the time of the attack."

[Question in Russian indistinct]

[Shevardnadze in Russian] "I would not say that the work has stopped. Even now a large group of Abkhaz separatists representing the regime in Abkhazia is in Moscow for talks. As regards the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, a similar process is under way. There will be an important meeting in Vladikavkaz in the next few days. So this process is also developing.

"As for the Russian bases in Georgia, you mentioned the necessary conditions yourself. According to our conditions, Russia will be given the military bases if Georgia's territorial integrity is restored with the help and direct involvement of Russia. This should include both Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region [South Ossetia]. That is the first condition. The second condition is that Georgia should receive the necessary equipment to build its armed forces. It must be noted that the head of state's signature is not all that is required. The bases agreement will not come into force without ratification by parliament."

[Question in Russian] "[Words indistinct] Giorgadze has said that if Shevardnadze is elected president of Georgia, it would be impossible to regain Abkhazia in the next five or 10 years. [words indistinct]"

[Shevardnadze in Russian] "This is a ploy used in Sukhumi by supporters of the former president [Zviad Gamsakhurdia] and by traitors of every stripe and color. This is what Loti Kobalia [Gamsakhurdia's military commander] was saying at the time when he could join us and save Sukhumi. There are also others who have been using this argument, and, unfortunately, this is still continuing. This is one of the arguments used by Giorgadze to convince his accomplices, including Giga Gelashvili [Rescue Corps chairman] and others. According to it, once Shevardnadze is eliminated, Russia will give Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region back to us. These are methods commonly used by criminals to persuade and mislead the people whom they want to carry out their plans." [passage omitted]

[Mediator] "The last question please."

[Question indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] "I was thinking of sending the text of my speech to the United Nations. However, it is a very short speech: The time limit is only five or six minutes. Its leitmotif is that the UN in its current form is not suited to modern conditions. It requires radical reform." [break in reception]

Party Leaders Cite 'Security Reasons'

LD2010194995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Oct 20 (INTERFAX) — The leadership of Eduard Shevardnadze's Civil Union talked him out of flying to New York to attend the 50th anniversary of the United Nations for security reasons, Civil Union leader Georgiy Baramidze told INTERFAX Friday.

Well-informed sources have informed the party leadership of another terrorist act being prepared against Shevardnadze. His plane could be shot down during the flight to New York.

The same sources had warned about the August 29 attempt upon Shevardnadze, Baramidze added.

Shevardnadze had no right to risk his life and internal stability and made the only right decision, Baramidze said. Georgia's destructive forces are intensifying their activities on the eve of the presidential and parliamentary elections

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